



Generic Risk Assessment

For further information on The Riverfly Partnership visit www.riverflies.org

HAZARD	RISK	CONTROL MEASURES
PERSON	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of individual capability • Poor fitness • Pre-existing injuries 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High degree of personal responsibility • Pre-existing injuries can be exacerbated by the activity. Effects can be felt post activity. It is important to seek quick advice / treatment. Delay can significantly hinder recovery
MUSCULAR SKELETAL DISORDER	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Repetitive kick sampling • Manual handling / lifting • Posture 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awareness of posture, correct lifting techniques and back care
BITES / STINGS / IRRITANTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bites / stings / irritants from nature 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awareness
SKIN IRRITATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spills of alcohol / ethanol in preserving specimens 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wear gloves at all times when handling these fluids • Adhere to COSHH regulations • Container for sharps
EXPOSURE TO DISEASE & INFECTION Infection Leptospirosis (Weil's disease) Lyme disease Hepatitis A or B Needlestick injuries Blue – green algae	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Via open wounds • Contact with water contaminated with urine from infected rats. Infection can enter the body through cuts and scratches or lining of the mouth, throat or via the eyes • Bite/s 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wear protective clothing and gloves / long armed gloves • Cover all cuts and broken skin with waterproof plasters • Wash hands before and after contact with water and prior to eating, drinking, smoking • Examine for bites and ticks • Carry associated cards and follow up any symptoms with a medical practitioner
SLIPS, TRIPS AND FALLS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General access and access and egress to and from watercourse 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awareness

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WEATHER	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heat, sun, wet, cold 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awareness • Correct clothing and spare set • Sun cream SPF 15+, drink (warm or cold) • Check weather forecast, remember some rivers can be flashy and rise very quickly
TRAFFIC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vehicular movements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awareness
AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disturbance to livestock • Injury from livestock • Fencing e.g. electric, barbed wire 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awareness • Permission for access • Follow The Countryside Code
WATER SAFETY ISSUES Immersion / drowning Sudden immersion / shock Foot entrapment Hypothermia Cuts / puncture wounds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Depth, flow, uneven river bed • Silt and mud / marshy ground; weed growth • Impact from floating debris • Unexpected sudden increases in flow – up stream rainfall or dam releases • Turbid water, unseen bed conditions, needle sticks / broken glass 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awareness, lifejacket, clothing, boots with mid-sole protection • Check the water depth and bed stability with a staff or pole • Work with another person nearby • Beware of dynamic water depth and that water levels can rise quickly. Check forecast prior to field work • Never enter a river in spate
PUBLIC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Other activities • Threatening behaviours 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awareness and communication • Awareness; leave the site for personal safety
RISKS TO THE ENVIRONMENT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disturbance of silt and mud (downstream pollution) • Spread of infection to / from other water courses • Spread of alien / invasive species to / from other sites • Distress to fish and other wildlife e.g. disturbance of fish spawning sites and nesting birds 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awareness and knowledge • Disinfection • Follow Government guidelines