

GENERAL RISK ASSESSMENT FORM WORKPARTIES					
Date	18/02/15	Assessed by:	JM Leggett	Activity	Upkeep and maintenance of Lake and River Banks
Location	Entire Association Fishery			Ref No.	1
<p>Description of activity: Upkeep and maintenance of the lakes and rivers which make up the fishery to include river bank and lakeside management including access points. Also associated work with residential caravans and equipment</p>					
<p>What are the hazards:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Drowning 2) Flooding, including sudden rapid water level rises from Hydro plant generation (Drowning) 3) Electrocutation (from overhead power cables, electric fences or power tools near water) 4) Injury resulting from use of power and other tools (especially strimmers & chain saws, axes, knives, ladders, pumps and weed cutters) 5) Negotiating styles and bridges (also whilst carrying heavy loads) 6) Slipping on wet, sloping or frozen ground (especially whilst carrying heavy loads) 7) Vehicles (slippery ground overloading) 8) Cuts from rusty metal objects (tetanus risk) 9) Weil's disease 10) Noise from Machinery 11) Boats and waterborne equipment 12) Chemical hazards: creosote or other wood preservatives or other chemicals 13) Lone working 14) Livestock 15) Manual handling (Lifting heavy weights) 16) Lyme disease 17) Poionous plants (Water Hemlock). 					
<p>Who might be affected:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) All work party participants 2) Outside contractors 3) Members of the general public 4) Livestock 					
<p>What controls are in place:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Copies of Health and Safety information is available on request from the Secretary, and given to workparty members 2. Key actions will be conveyed (where appropriate read and understood) to all participating in workparties so that they know and understand what the potential hazards are 3. COSHH information displayed where necessary 4. Regular checks on stability of styles & crossing points and bridges 5. Association equipment checked regularly for safety 6. 'Buddy' system implemented whilst lone working for the association 7. Suitable personal protective equipment / clothing must be worn for all activities (individual responsibility where own equipment used). 					

What more needs to be done to reduce risk:

New gates and styles are being erected during the period 2010 - 2011
Access to some parts of the river are also being improved (Trotters, Ash, Irmytage, Millpool, Gorge, Gordons, bridge to Tanyrallt, bridge and pathway at Whirlpool) during the period 2010 - 2011. Above improvements completed by 2013. Additional styles are being erected along the Tanyrallt stretch 2015.

RISK LIKELIHOOD & SEVERITY DEFINITIONS

SEVERITY

High 3

Hazard capable of resulting in death, severe injury, disability or serious illness and is a life/career-threatening outcome or has a major damage or loss capability.

Medium 2

Hazard capable of resulting in moderate personal injury / illness or damage and loss capability. In some cases 'Medium' level severity should be considered as being not *obviously* 'High' or 'Low' severity to either the individual or club.

Low 1

Hazard resulting in minor injury requiring first aid treatment/minor lost time only or slight damage. A minor loss event to the individual or the club.

LIKELIHOOD

High 3

Likely to occur in the very short term

Medium 2

Likely to occur in time.

In some cases 'Medium' level likelihood should be considered as being not *obviously* 'High' or 'Low' severity to either the individual or club.

Low 1

May occur in time, however low expectation of occurrence.

TABLE 1
RISK LIKELIHOOD & SEVERITY OF HAZARDS
 (See Also notes 'Reducing the Hazards' on following page)

No.	Hazards	Severity*	Likelihood*
1	Drowning	3	1
2	Flooding, including sudden rapid water level rises from Hydro plant generation (Drowning)	2	1
3	Electrocution (from overhead power cables, electric fences or power tools near water)	3	1
4	Injury resulting from use of power and other tools (especially strimmers & chain saws, axes, knives, ladders, pumps and weed cutters)	2-3	1
5	Negotiating styles and bridges (also whilst carrying heavy loads)	2	2
6	Slipping on wet, sloping or frozen ground (especially whilst carrying heavy loads)	2	2
7	Vehicles (slippery ground overloading)	3	1
8	Cuts from rusty metal objects (tetanus risk)	2	1
9	Weil's disease	2	1
10	Noise from Machinery	2	1
11	Boats and waterborne equipment	2-3	1
12	Chemical hazards (e.g. creosote or other wood preservatives)	2-3	1
13	Lone working	1-3	2
14	Livestock	2-3	1
15	Manual handling (Lifting heavy weights)	1-2	1
16	Lyme disease	1-2	1
17	Poisonous plants (Water Hemlock)	2-3	1

*The Severity, Likelihood and Risk ratings are generally low. With regard to Severity, this of course depends on the incident. Likelihood ratings are based on the relevant precautions having been taken and common sense attitude to the tasks in hand

NOTES to Table 1 Reducing the Hazards

Most of the 'risks and hazards' identified above are similar to those encountered by members of the general public when they are following a designated footpath alongside any river or lake anywhere in the UK, and a certain amount of common sense must be assumed with regard to any of the hazards outlined above (e.g. slipping on wet ground into the river / lake, injury negotiating styles and bridges, cuts from rusty metal objects and danger from livestock etc.,).

Having said that, there are additional issues which must be considered as listed below. Implementing the advice given will considerably reduce the risks.

Hazards 1 & 2. When the river is in flood or when there is a sudden rapid rises in water level from the Rheidol Hydro plant, there is obviously an additional danger from drowning, and particular care needs to be taken most especially if wading.

Hazard 3 There are a number of places especially on the river where high voltage power cables either traverse or run close by the river bank and extreme care needs to be taken when using equipment or felling trees which might come into contact with these cables. Special care must also be exercised whilst using electrical equipment on or close to any body of water. The use of ladders also carry a risk of electrocution if used near to electrical wires or cables.

Hazard 4 The use of any tool requires proper and careful use, most especially power tools. At all times, the appropriate personal protective clothing must be worn including ear defenders (also Hazard 10). Hazard 3 also needs to be considered in this context. Ladders should only be used when properly secured and attended by a second individual.

Hazards 5 & 6 Traversing styles and bridges can be particularly hazardous and requires care, more so if a load is being carried which might affect an individual's balance. Where possible, any load should be shared between two or more people. Similar care should be taken with sloping, wet or frozen ground. See also Hazard 15.

Hazard 7 Special care should be taken when driving a vehicle close to any body of water as there is a danger of the vehicle slipping uncontrollably on wet, sloping or frozen ground. It is advised to park a safe distance away, and adjacent to the water rather than pointing directly towards it.

Hazards 8 & 9 Cuts or other penetrative injury could lead to infection (especially by tetanus and Weil's disease) and should preferably be examined by a medical professional. Immunisation to Tetanus is recommended.

Hazard 10 See Hazard 4.

Hazard 11 Life jackets are provided (See also Hazards 1 - 4)

Hazard 12 Extra care is required when using any chemical. Chemicals should only be used when there are two individuals and both should wear appropriate personal protective clothing in accordance with the manufacturers recommendations and H&S legislation.

Hazard 13 Lone working should be avoided wherever possible most especially when power tools such as chainsaws are to be used. It is wise to implement a buddy system (telling someone when and where you are going and when you will return) even where a task is deemed low risk.

Hazard 14 Livestock can be very unpredictable and are not to be trusted. An animal which seems to be docile can change its demeanour very quickly to become aggressive, most especially if spooked, by for example, the sudden noise of a power tool. Its also worth remembering that if they are running towards you they may not be able to turn or stop, especially if the ground is sloping, wet or frozen.

Hazard 15 Never attempt to lift heavy weights on your own. Ensure there are sufficient people to lift weights safely and securely. Use heavy lifting equipment where necessary

Hazard 16

Lyme's disease (Lyme borreliosis) is transmitted by tick bites. Keep clothing (especially trouser bottoms) tight to skin to prevent tick access. Ticks can be safely removed with specialised forceps but care must be taken to ensure that the mouthparts of the tick are removed and that the tick is not squashed during the process. **If you are not certain of how to do this safely, contact your health care specialists.** If you develop a reddening patch where a tick has been, you should contact your health care specialists urgently

Hazard 17

Water hemlock is fairly common along the riverbank and can be found in other wet places e.g. lakes. Care should be taken when handling tools foliage and herbage etc., that any plant residue is not transferred to the mouth. Hands should always be properly cleansed before handling sandwiches or other foodstuffs. If you feel unwell after working by the river or lakes especially if you begin vomiting, contact a health professional urgently and explain the possibility (remote though it is) of hemlock poisoning.

Using common sense and implementing the suggestions as outlined, the Severity, Likelihood and Risk ratings are generally low. With regard to Severity, this of course depends on the incident.

Risk Assessment Approved and completed on (Date)

**Signed by (print name).....(Signature).....
on behalf of The Directors and General Management Committee members**