

## Ponds, streams and rivers

### How to use this Risk Assessment

This risk assessment document is for LCV Task Leaders. It identifies the risk associated with tasks in or near ponds, streams and rivers. Task Leaders must use it in conjunction with LCV's *Site Safety* risk assessment and other activity-based generic risk assessments to determine the contents of the pre-task safety talk and the organisation of activities that take place during the task.

**This risk assessment must be used in conjunction with the *Site safety* assessment and perhaps other task-specific risk assessments as appropriate for the activities being carried out. Consult the *Guidance notes* for full instructions.**

### Generic risk assessment

#### Training/Supervision required PPE required

Review risk assessment and brief personnel on risks and controls before work starts  
Protective footwear and gloves. Additional PPE in line with tool manufacturer's instructions or detailed below.



**Lothians  
Conservation  
Volunteers**

Common hazards Associated with the work activity	Who is at risk? Public, staff, trainees, volunteers	Risk rating Risk level before controls are in place	Control measures Measures that must be in place before work is allowed to start	Residual risk rating Risk remaining after controls are in place
Manual Handling (additional control measures)	Volunteers	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Advise volunteers to take extra care with lifting, because wet materials are substantially heavier than dry ones</li> <li>Provide carrying aids e.g. wheelbarrow or buckets</li> </ul>	Low
Deep or Fast-flowing water	Volunteers	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure that the client provides appropriate buoyancy aids.</li> <li>Tell volunteers that they <b>must</b> wear suitable buoyancy aids when working on or above deep or fast-flowing water.</li> <li>Tell volunteers that they <b>must not</b> work alone in water</li> <li>Ensure there is always someone on the bank in case of emergency</li> <li>Ensure that there are lifebelts or ropes in place on the bank</li> <li>Tell volunteers that they <b>must not</b> work in fast flowing water above knee height or still water above waist height.</li> <li>Advise volunteers of the risks associated with chest waders and the actions to take if they get into difficulty.</li> </ul>	Low
Dangers from submerged objects	Volunteers	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Survey site and mark any soft spots, deep water or other risks.</li> <li>Advise volunteers to wear robust waterproof gloves</li> </ul>	Low
Hand Tools	Volunteers	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tell volunteers that they <b>must not</b> wear gloves when using swinging tools</li> <li>Tell volunteers that they <b>must</b> take care not to injure others with long-handled tools (e.g. rakes, hacks and crones).</li> <li>Check ropes for visible damage before taking out on site.</li> </ul>	low
Dangers of working from boats	Volunteers	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Do not work from boats unless a detailed risk assessment has been carried out and documented.</li> </ul>	Low
Slips/Trips and Falls	Volunteers	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide grab lines or ropes on steep or slippery banks.</li> </ul>	Low

Lothians Conservation Volunteers Generic Risk Assessments

<b>Common hazards</b> Associated with the work activity	<b>Who is at risk?</b> Public, staff, trainees, volunteers	<b>Risk rating</b> Risk level before controls are in place	<b>Control measures</b> Measures that must be in place before work is allowed to start	<b>Residual risk rating</b> Risk remaining after controls are in place
Weirs	Volunteers	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Do not work upstream of a weir unless a detailed risk assessment has been carried out and documented.</li> </ul>	Low
Biohazards	Volunteers	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Do not work on a site where untreated sewage may be present.</li> <li>Advise volunteers to avoid contact with water on urban stream banks, ponds and farms.</li> <li>Advise volunteers to be aware of the symptoms of Weil's Disease.</li> </ul>	Low

**Document control**

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