# Disclaimer: This risk assessment template is to be used as a guide only and the user should fully review the risk assessment prior to signing it off. The list of hazards and mitigations are examples only and should not be considered an exhaustive list. The user should consider each risk in relation to the policy of the organisation for which they are completing the risk assessment. Herefordshire Wildlife Trust accepts no responsibility for the use of this risk assessment or any actions that may be taken against the user where the risk assessment has been used.

**Wetland Work inc. Ponds, Streams and Rivers**

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| ACTIVITY ASSESSED  **Wetland Work** | | **ASSESSMENT DATE:** | **ASSESSED BY:** |
| WHO’S AT RISK  **Staff, Volunteers, Public** | | **NEXT ASSESSMENT BEFORE:** | **APPROVED BY:** |
| HAZARD  (potential for harm) | MITIGATION  (to reduce the risk level) | | |
| Chest Waders | 1. Chest waders only to be worn by people trained in how to get out of them in emergency situations. | | |
| Biohazards e.g. Tetanus, Leptospirosis | 1. Advise participants to have Tetanus inoculations. 2. Do not drink or wash hands in stream or pond water; use clean water and anti-bacterial wash/soap solution. 3. Wash hands before eating, drinking or smoking. 4. Wear strong rubber gloves and use barrier cream. 5. Make sure people are aware of the symptoms, and tell them to check with the doctor if they contract any of them after the activity. | | |
| Contact with Sharp or Swinging Tools | 1. Do not use when handles are wet and slippery. 2. Do not wear gloves when using swinging tools. 3. Ensure a firm, stable stance. 4. Keep guards and covers on tools when not in use. 5. Instruct volunteers in safe working distances appropriate to tools and task. | | |
| Dead Animals | 1. Dead animals should be touched only when absolutely necessary and then with extreme caution and wearing gloves. 2. Always wash hands with clean water and anti-bacterial wash/soap solution. | | |
| Deep or Fast Flowing Water | 1. Always wear life jackets when working on or above deep or fast flowing water. 2. Chest waders to be worn in water over mid-thigh height. 3. Do not work alone in water. 4. Ensure there is always someone on the banks to act in the event of an emergency. 5. Plan rescue systems in advance. 6. Have ropes, poles and life belts readily to hand to avoid others having to enter the water. 7. Still water over waist deep or fast flowing water above knee height must not be worked in. 8. Thigh waders must be worn if water is above Wellington boot height. | | |
| Exposure to Harmful Substances | 1. Do not work on any site where sewage is present. 2. If hazardous substances are found, a full COSHH assessment must be carried out. 3. If in doubt have water tested before working in it. | | |
| Manual Handling | 1. Advise all that wet materials are much heavier than their equivalent dry ones. 2. Train all in safe lifting, carrying and moving techniques. | | |
| Materials | 1. Only have materials on site which are needed at the time. 2. Restrict unnecessary movement of materials in water. 3. Store materials with care, as clearly as possible and not stacked too high. | | |
| Slips, Trips and Falls | 1. Do not rush; move carefully. 2. Provide grab lines/ropes and non-slip planks. 3. Tread carefully on gravel banks. 4. Use safe access points to water, avoiding steep banks. | | |
| Submerged objects | 1. Carry out a survey of the work area and mark out soft spots, sudden drops etc. 2. Use corrugated iron “duckboards” to prevent sinking into mud. 3. Wear sturdy footwear, with sole and toe protection. 4. Wear sturdy rubber gloves, **unless** using swinging tools. | | |
| Use of Boats | 1. Do not overload boat with people or materials. 2. Only competent swimmers to work from boats. 3. Only trained competent persons to be in charge of boats. 4. Work from opposite sides to avoid tipping over and carry spare oars, bailer and rope. 5. Make sure life jackets are worn. | | |
| Weirs | 1. A specific detailed assessment should be undertaken if work on or near a weir is performed. | | |