

# Herefordshire Wildlife Trust - Generic Activity Risk Assessment Form

Name: Claire Spicer

Job Title: Head of Nature in Recovery

Date Created: 28/02/2023 Date Reviewed: 28/03/2025

Activity Assessed: **Working In or Near Water**

Scope: Includes site visits, surveys and sampling

Who is at risk: Staff and volunteers

Hazard	Control measures
<p>Steep, slippery and unstable banks/steps</p> <p>Banks which may give way</p> <p>Fast flowing water</p> <p>Deep water</p> <p>For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Water reservoirs, lakes and ponds</li> <li>• Steeply sloping ground</li> <li>• River banks and watercourses</li> </ul>	<p>Wear appropriate footwear</p> <p>Do not stand on edge of river banks</p> <p>Only inspect water reservoirs and fast flowing or deep water from a safe vantage point</p> <p>Only enter water if you have been training in water safety and are wearing the appropriate life jacket</p> <p><u>Always work in pairs</u> and ensure your line manager knows where you are working</p> <p>Follow the <u>Working in or near water SOP</u></p>
<p>Biosecurity</p>	<p>When entering/leaving watercourse wash boots with broad spectrum disinfectant such as Virkon to prevent spread of waterborne diseases</p>

	<p>Wipe down equipment with broad spectrum disinfectant such as Virkon to prevent spread of waterborne diseases</p> <p>Leave nets to dry in the sun for a full 72 hours before re using elsewhere</p> <p>If moving to a different location in the same day use additional nets</p> <p>Use of protective gloves if required</p>
Health, hygiene and welfare	<p>Be aware of biological hazards e.g. ticks and Weils disease</p> <p>Be aware of the symptoms of Limes disease, if suspected talk to your GP</p> <p>Clean hands before eating/drinking/smoking especially where there is risk of Weils Disease or Toxacaria. Hand sanitiser or wipes provided by HWT to be used and staff to ensure they let their manager know when they need a replacement.</p> <p>Avoid splashing water in your eyes</p> <p>Wear appropriate clothing and PPE, ensuring legs are covered</p> <p>Always carry your first aid kit and ensure the contents are up to date</p> <p>Administer first aid to scratches and puncture wounds as soon as possible</p> <p>Report any accidents or injuries to your line manager in the first instance and on riskproof</p>
Weather	<p>Red warning: do not carry out a site visit if a red warning has been issued by the Met Office</p> <p>Amber warning: staff to review on the day of the site visit, line manager to be consulted as to whether to proceed</p> <p>Wind speed: site visits should not be carried out in woodlands during high winds or gale force winds ie when the wind speed is over 45mph (unless trees are very young and no taller than a person)</p>

	<p>Avoid working for long periods in full sun on hot summer days – seek shade, rest frequently and drink plenty of water, wear a sun hat and sun cream and UV protective glasses</p> <p>Avoid working for long periods in exposed areas on cold days – seek shelter from wind and rain and wear warm, waterproof clothing</p> <p>Ensure that you are appropriately dressed for the occasion; waterproof clothing, stout footwear</p>
Water pollution from chemicals, sewage etc	<p>Do not enter the water if pollution to the watercourse is suspected</p> <p>Call the environment agency and report the pollution incident to their incident hotline 0800 80 70 60</p>
Dead birds and mammals	<p>Do not touch dead animals/birds</p> <p>Report to line manager</p> <p>If Avian bird flu suspected report to DEFRA hotline in line with current guidance</p>
Slips, trips and falls on uneven ground or discarded items resulting in injury	<p>Avoid cluttered areas and be mindful of ground conditions</p> <p>Wear appropriate footwear</p>