

**Friends of the Upper Wye**

**Risk Assessment and training log for Water Sampling of River Wye and Tributaries, from the bank and in shallow water.** To be issued to all surveyors.

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**Date:** May 2021

**Date of Review:** May 2022

<b>Hazard</b>	<b>Potential Harm</b>	<b>Likelihood</b>	<b>Severity</b>	<b>Risk Factor</b>	<b>Precautions</b>	<b>Further Control</b>
Infection from Coronavirus	Illness, potentially fatal or with long term health complications	4	5	20	Follow current government rules around Coronavirus. Follow NHS guidance on what to do if suspect a Covid-19 infection <a href="https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms/">https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms/</a> and self-isolate at home for a minimum of 10 days.  Report sickness to FOUW leader and HWT/RWT as appropriate. If Covid-19 is confirmed by a test this also needs to be reported.	Ensure dated records are kept of volunteer activity.

Deep and /or fast Water	Drowning, Hypothermia, Slips and Trips into water	4	5	20	DON'T ENTER WATER. Work from bank or bridge, check stability of bank and seek safe site before approaching the water.  Avoid water in spate and when flooding is possible.	Wherever possible take water samples using rope lines from bridges to remove the need to approach water, particularly if the river is deep, fast or high-water levels are expected.  Have change of clothes, and towel nearby.  Work with a buddy whenever possible and carry a throwline.  Undertake the online working near watercourse
Rough/uneven / slippery ground	Injuries of varying severity sustained from slips, trips and falls	5	3	15	Wear suitable footwear and stick to rights of way as much as possible. Assess hazards	
Adverse weather Hot sunny /Cold weather  High Winds	Sun burn/ sun stroke / hypothermia. Increased chance of slips and trips.  Falling trees branches	3	4	12	Wear clothes appropriate to the conditions. In hot/sunny weather use sun cream when required and carry water to stay hydrated. Limit time exposed to the conditions (e.g., park close to the sampling site where it is safe to do so).	Always check forecast in advance and cancel site visit if conditions are severe

Aggressive Animals	Injury from livestock or dogs	3	3	9	<p>Check fields before entry; be aware of and keep a distance from livestock.</p> <p>Ensure sampling location is appropriate and safe if accompanied by a dog.</p>	Move away from any threat.
Difficult or aggressive people	Threatening behavior, physical assault/injury and abuse	3	4	12	<p>Keep calm and leave the site.</p> <p>Do not attempt to argue or antagonise the individual.</p> <p>Enter land where there is public access or with permission only.</p> <p>Work with a buddy whenever possible.</p>	<p>Once retreated to a safe distance:</p> <p><a href="mailto:Science@fouw.org.uk">Science@fouw.org.uk</a></p> <p>Contact HWT on 01432 356872 to report the incident or RWT on 01597 823298 as applicable.</p> <p>If the individual is threatening or aggressive report it to the police.</p> <p>Inform other potential surveyors to avoid the site if it is possible others may encounter the individual.</p>
Roads/vehicles	Collision causing injury	2	5	10	<p>Be aware of surroundings when moving on vehicular routes</p> <p>Ensure sampling location is safe</p> <p>Move to a location away from traffic to carry out tests.</p>	
Contaminated Water, and other sources of infection	Weil's disease and water-borne gastrointestinal infections	2	4	8	<p>Cover any open cuts so they are not exposed to water.</p> <p>Wash/sterilize hands before eating</p>	<p>Seek medical attention if after surveying you suspect you may have contracted an infection. Have specific regard to Leptospirosis and inform your doctor that you may have been exposed to it if you develop flu like symptoms.</p>

Use of Equipment (Phosphate and nitrate strips)	Chemicals	2	3	6	<p>Always wash hands after use</p> <p>Follow training advice in use of the equipment and chemicals.</p> <p>Store in safe and secure location</p> <p>Dispose of water samples in a “green space” away from river where water can infiltrate and reagents can biodegrade naturally.</p>	Seek medical advice if having adverse reactions and report to project leaders and HWT/RWT
Use of Equipment (Hanna Tester User)	Chemicals – Potassium Disulfate	3	4	12	<p>Note Hazard warning on label</p> <p>Store in appropriate safe and secure location.</p> <p>Follow training and advice in use of the equipment and chemicals.</p> <p>Toxic if inhaled – handle carefully outdoors and do not breathe in</p> <p>Wear protective clothing</p> <p>Reacted water samples should be disposed of down a wastewater sink or toilet to be treated at a sewage treatment works.</p>	<p>If on skin – remove clothing and rinse skin immediately</p> <p>If in eyes – rinse cautiously with water for several minutes. Remove contact lenses if present and easy to do so. Continue rinsing.</p> <p>Corrosive to the respiratory tract.</p> <p>Immediately seek medical advice</p>

Lone Working	Enhanced Risk of injury relating to the above and problems associated with isolation in remote locations should an incident occur	3	5	15	<p>Operate a buddy system: inform a responsible person of where you are going and how long you are likely to be so they can raise the alarm if you don't return.</p> <p>Monitoring sites to be registered with coordinators.</p> <p>Mobile phone to be carried at all times and ensure it is fully charged.</p>	<p>Use location sharing Apps e.g., Snapchat, WhatsApp, FollowMee whilst surveying.</p> <p>Sign up to Emergency Services Text service if mobile signal is poor.</p> <p>Adhere to lone working systems of advice.</p> <p>Ensure that buddy/responsible person knows to contact appropriate authorities and/or catchment coordinators and has contact details.</p>
Bites and stings	Lymes Diseases from tick bites, allergic reaction to bee stings, infection etc.	2	5	10	<p>Check for ticks after walking in long grass and remove them.</p> <p>Always carry an epipen if there is a known risk of a severe allergic reaction.</p>	<p>Seek medical attention for tick bites, especially if you develop the distinctive ringed rash around the bite or feel unwell.</p> <p>Always wash hands and skin following insect bites/stings</p> <p>If desirable, use insect repellent to prevent bites and stings</p>
Vegetation	Reaction to plants/ skin irritation	2	3	6	<p>Minimise skin exposure.</p> <p>Do not cut/crush stems of plants e.g. hogweed/ giant hogweed (sap causes severe burns and skin irritation when exposed to UV light)</p>	<p>If you get giant hogweed sap on your skin, wash the area with mild soap and cool water as soon as you can. Keep the skin covered when you're outside to protect it from sunlight. Seek medical advice.</p>

Training Log. List All training received, including Health & Safety if possible.

Training	Date Acquired	Trainer
Phosphate strips		
Hanna tester use		
Nitrate strips		
TDS and temperature readings		
Secchi Tubes		
Study training videos provided		
H&S advice – agree to work to RWT/HWT H&S systems.		
Lone working buddy: Catchment Coordinator contact details for buddy:		

Risk Understood and training received.

By:

At:

Date: