

Task/Operation:	Generic : Working near or in water		
Group(s) affected:	Staff, Volunteers, Public		
Person(s) undertaking assessment:	Michelle Bradford, Kathryn Wilson, A Cameron	Date:	Feb 2004
Employee(s) consulted:	S Cresswell, N Tomkinson, J Thompson		
Union Safety Rep(s) consulted:			
KEY	S = STAFF		

Reviews			
Next Review Required	Date actually reviewed	Changes Required? (Yes/No)	Assessor Signature
Feb 2005	20.10.05	No	RTT
20.10.2006			

Hazard	Resultant effect(s)	Before control			State control measures and person responsible to action each one	After control		
		L	S	R		L	S	R
Accidental immersion in the water, either partial or total.	Hypothermia, Drowning, Health risks. (These are 'general effects' referred to elsewhere in this risk assessment).	2	3	6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All staff should be trained in rescue techniques eg throw line and know of emergency procedures (S) For some tasks a boat should be available in case of emergency with staff trained in its use (S) Rescue equipment should be located where it will be quickly/easily reached and used (S) Spare warm dry clothing should be available. Emergency blanket, warm drinks especially in cold weather 	1	3	3

		2	3	6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Working alone is not normally permissible, unless approved by site/task specific RA (S) Staff at base should know emergency procedures (S) A First Aider (not the person at risk) should be present (S) A radio or mobile telephone must be carried, and regular contact with 'base' maintained (S) 	1	3	3
Health risks from contact with aquatic environments:- Weils disease; Polio; Hepatitis A; Tetanus; toxic-cyano bacteria; blue-green algae (bga) pollution.	Infection; illness; death, burns, rashes.	2	3	6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If bga or pollution is present in the worksite postpone the task (S) Seek advice on its removal, consult the Environment Agency (S) If bga or pollution is present, but can be avoided, clearly define and if possible mark out the task area and work inside this area (S) Cover all wounds with a waterproof dressing (S) Tetanus vaccination must be up to date Wear rubber, or pvc gloves (S) Wash hands before touching eyes, face, mouth, and eating or smoking (S) 	1	3	3

Discarded fishing tackle and other litter.	Cuts and infection	2	3	6	Clean up the worksite and remove litter bags. Wear appropriate gloves Place hooks and other sharp objects in a sharps box (S)	1	3	3
Trip hazards, on the bank.	Falling into water (see general effects)	2	3	6	Remove or mark with hazard tape etc (S)	1	3	3
Working in a restricted space eg (fishing platform)	Knocks, pokes, cuts, bruises, fractures	2	3	6	Assess safe number for the space taking account of specific activity and tools being used. Maintain numbers at or below this level (S)	1	3	3
	Falling into water (see general effects)				Follow controls for 'General Effects'	1	3	3
Working on steep, slippery, or unstable, debris covered ground which may cause staff to fall into water.	Bruises, fractures, wounds, concussion, drowning, health risks, hypothermia	2	3	6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delay the task until wet, muddy, slippery slopes have dried (S) • Remove or consolidate debris or other unstable material (S) • Remove or highlight trip hazards (S) • Steep ground above deep water should be avoided unless it is possible to construct a safety fence or other barrier below the work site (S) • Wear safety boots with good grip (S) 	1	3	3

Unstable, eroded banks.	Drowning, health risks, hypothermia.	2	3	6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If possible consolidate the bank before starting the task (S) • Cordon off instability and work around it (S) 	1	3	3
Working in deep water, submerged hazards such as trips, debris, potholes, steeply shelving ground, silt, vegetation rough and uneven bottom.	Stumbles, falls, trips, slips with partial or total immersion resulting in drowning; hypothermia; health risks; injury	2	3	6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A detailed RA for site survey and task is essential (S) • A safe system of work may be necessary (S) • Refer to Code of Practice E (S) • Follow controls given under accidental immersion (S) • If it is practical, lower the water level so that staff are working on dry land or in shallow water (S) • Never work in water deeper than waist height (S) • Use a boat (S) • Survey the bed of the water body by appropriate means – prodding stick (S) • Mark extremities of work site by stakes, buoys (S) • Survey methodically to cover the ground (S) • Mark safe working zone (S) • Mark hazards which cannot be removed (S) • Use appropriate protective clothing and 	1	3	3

					<p>other safety guards: life jacket, waders, rope and harness] (S)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff who start to feel cold should leave water immediately (with assistant if necessary) and warm up (S) • Staff working in deep water should be experienced and have relevant training (S) • Only essential staff should enter into deep water (S) • Volunteers should be used only in strictly supervised and controlled situations (S) 			
Working in waders, especially if they fill with water.	Difficulty in moving, falling over, Hypothermia, drowning. Health risks.	2	3	6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thigh waders should not be worn in water deeper than knee height (S) • Chest waders must be worn in water above knee height, but not more than waist height (S) • In water above knee height chest waders must only be worn by experienced users (S) • Staff must first gain experience wearing chest waders in shallow water under the supervision of an experienced user (S) <p>There should always be a second member of staff on the bank with rescue equipment which they are trained to use (S)</p>	1	3	3

<p>Conflict with other water activities.</p>	<p>Verbal and physical abuse. Fishing lines.</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>4</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be aware of other users, m.o.p dogs, swans (S) • Define work area with buoys, or hazard tape and standard men at work signs (S) • If necessary cordon bankside access to work site (S) • Use banksperson to warn m.o.p and keep control of dogs (S) • Prevent use of fishing pegs in close vicinity of work areas if possible or: (S) • Ask anglers to move (S) • Do not work where there is danger of being caught with fishing line (S) 	<p>1</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>3</p>
<p>Hazardous vegetation, including – overhanging/thorns/branches/ Phytotoxic/irritants/allergies/ Poisoning.</p> <p>Dealing with waste/litter (non – animal).</p> <p>Contact with animal faeces (Toxicara canis). Animal attacks (dogs/swans, insects).</p>	<p>Cuts, grazes, puncture wounds to skin and eyes. Infection. Rashes, burns. Allergies – discomfort – anaphylatic shock.</p> <p>Cuts, puncture wounds, bruises, infection.</p> <p>Infection, blindness.</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>4</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • REFER TO CSG – Hazardous vegetation • REFER TO CSG – Waste and litter • REFER TO CSG – Animal Faeces 	<p>1</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>2</p>

<p>Animal attacks (dogs/swans, insects).</p>	<p>Cuts, bruises, bites, stings.</p>				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • REFER TO CSG – Animals 			
<p>Working with Volunteers, untrained staff.</p>	<p>All above.</p>				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • REFER TO CSG – Working with Volunteers 			
<p>Lone working near or in water.</p>	<p>Drowning.</p>				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • REFER TO CSG – Lone Working • where possible, lone working near, in or on water should not be carried out. There should always be an assistant present with rescue equipment ready (who should also be a first aider) (S) • 			

This Assessment is not exhaustive and Management must ensure that work not covered by this Risk Assessment should only be undertaken after a suitable Risk Assessment has been made. Some activities should only be carried out in conjunction with a written safe system of work. The risk ratings in this assessment are established on the basis that the control measures are in place.