

GOPSALL FISHING CLUB: Risk Assessments & Mitigation

GOPSALL FISHING CLUB: Working Party Risk Assessment. Before the commencement of any work, the appointed Working Party Supervisor should provide a briefing to the Group regarding the objectives of the Working Party and should identify any specific risks or hazards involved and the mitigation in place or suggested mitigation to reduce those risks

PERCEIVED RISK	LEVEL	MITIGATION	PERCEIVED MITIGATED RISK
RISK OF INJURY FROM CHAINSAW	HIGH	Adherence to the Club's Chain Saw Risk Assessment & Risk Mitigation	LOW
RISK OF INJURY	HIGH	Always wear eye protection when pruning or cutting branches and good quality gardening or protective gloves to avoid puncture injuries, cuts and abrasions. Should you receive such an injury you should consider leaving the Working Party to avoid the risk of disease or illness. Be aware of barbed-wire fences and the dangers created by sharp submerged objects. Avoid lifting excessively heavy objects to avoid strains	LOW
RISK OF DROWNING	MEDIUM	Working Parties should NOT take place when the river is in flood and the normal course of the river is not visible. The river is of variable depth from shallow and stable over gravel beds to deep pools, especially downstream of weirs. There are areas of lesser depth that are silted where the depth of the silt is unknown. If wading is necessary to clear vegetation the depth must not be more than waist-deep, the person wading should wear appropriate waders and be accompanied at all times by other Working Party members on the bank. The person in the water must be a strong swimmer. A rope should be available to assist a person if they fall into the river If you fall in do NOT struggle, allow yourself to float with the current until you can leave the river Do NOT work alone at any time during a Working Party.	LOW
RISK OF INJURY FROM CUT TIMBER	MEDIUM	Adherence to the Club's Chain Saw Risk Assessment & Risk Mitigation	LOW
RISK OF BURNS	MEDIUM	Only Appointed experienced adult should start and maintain the bonfire of cut wood Only use safety firelighters to set the fire NOT other accelerants All Working Party Members should stay 20 metres from bonfire and upwind, when possible, to avoid flying embers, smoke inhalation and flames	LOW
RISK OF DISEASE OR ILLNESS	MEDIUM	Weil's Disease is transmitted by rat and cattle urine into the river water and surrounding areas. You should not put anything into your mouth that has come into contact with river water nor should you allow unprotected cuts, scratches or skin abrasions to come into contact with river water. You should avoid swallowing river water. Following a fishing trip if you become unwell immediately seek medical assistance and mention the possibility of Weil's Disease. Lyme Disease is transmitted to humans via tick bites. Cover as much of your skin as possible and check your body for ticks on your return home. The ticks are transferred to humans as they brush past ferns, shrubs, tall vegetation, stone walls, fallen trees and stacked logs etc. Should you be bitten by a tick and feel unwell seek immediate medical treatment and mention the possibility of Lyme Disease. Infection can be caused by the intake of river water or exposure of cuts, abrasions or scratches to river water. As stated above do not let anything that has been in contact with river water enter your mouth and keep all skin injuries protected.	LOW
RISK FROM WILDLIFE & DOMESTIC ANIMALS	MEDIUM	Cows, especially with calves and bulls can be unpredictable as can horses. Avoid these animals by accessing the river bank via another route. The risk from biting and stinging insects can be reduced by application of an appropriate deterrent. Swans are rarely aggressive; however, best to cease activity until they have passed.	LOW
RISKS RELATING TO RIVER BANKS	MEDIUM	Be aware of and avoid standing on top of undercut banks and take particular care when banks are slippery through ice or wet vegetation.	LOW
RISK FROM WEATHER CONDITIONS	MEDIUM	To mitigate the risk from very cold weather appropriate clothing and footwear must be worn. During hot weather the application of sunscreen should be considered with regular resting periods and the intake of rehydrating fluids. Should a thunderstorm occur the Working Party should cease immediately and refuge be sought in cars.	LOW
RISK TO OTHERS	MEDIUM	Whilst taking part in a Working Party be constantly vigilant of what others are doing around you and the proximity of others. Do NOT do anything or carry out any activity that would put others at risk.	LOW
RISK FROM OVERHEAD POWER LINES	MEDIUM	Power lines cross or run alongside the river at several points. Electricity can travel over considerable distances. Be aware of the location of power lines and report to the Club any missing or damaged power line warning signs.	LOW
<i>Gopsall Fishing Club Risk Assessment Relating to Fly Fishing: elements of which apply equally to Fly Fishing activities</i>		<i>This Risk Assessment MUST be read in conjunction with the Club's Working Party Risk Assessment above;</i>	
RISK OF EYE INJURY	HIGH	Always wear eye protection whilst fly fishing to prevent eye injury Wear polarised sunglasses to prevent glare from the water and potential eye strain	LOW
RISK OF INJURY FROM HOOKS	HIGH	Club rules dictate that only barbless hooks that have been de-barbed or where the barb is flattened are allowed when fishing on its waters However, there is still a risk of puncture wounds to the skin but potential injuries will be reduced when adhering to Club rules Any injuries incurred should be cleaned effectively and any sign of infection should be treated by a medical professional Attention is drawn to the Risk from Disease or Illness in the Working Party Risk Assessment.	MEDIUM
RISK TO WILDLIFE & DOMESTIC ANIMALS	HIGH	PLEASE DO NOT discard used leader or other fishing paraphernalia where it may harm wildlife. Take all of your rubbish home with you and dispose of it responsibly. If you loose your fly and/or leader in trees etc and it can be safely retrieved please do so. If not, and it poses a risk to wildlife mark the location in some way and inform the Club Secretary.	MEDIUM
RISKS WHILST FISHING ALONE	MEDIUM	Attention is drawn to the Risk from Drowning in the Working Party Risk Assessment Always carry a mobile phone and tell someone that you will be fishing alone and the time you are expected to return. Consider using a "Buddy System" whereby you will contact another to inform them of your safe return Do not directly challenge people you suspect of poaching from the Club Waters. Follow the advice issued by the Club relating to poachers Should you be approached by those opposed to fishing, it is suggested you cease fishing and move away to avoid argument and confrontation. Report the matter to the Club Secretary and if necessary the police.	LOW
RISK FROM USING STILES OR BRIDGES	MEDIUM	The Club or Landowners responsible will maintain such structures to a reasonable standard but great care must be taken by anglers whilst using them, especially when the conditions are wet or icy.	LOW
CASTING FLY LINES	MEDIUM	Always be aware of your surroundings and of people or domestic animals that are nearby	LOW

GOPSALL FISHING CLUB

VOLUNTEER RIVER WORKING PARTIES: USE OF CHAINSAW

Risk Assessment:

Risk to operator; Danger from saw blade- damage to limbs, splinters/sawdust in eyes, Danger from felled branches, splitting timber, loss of balance as branch is cut. Hearing damage due to noise level of saw operation. Fuel leakage and fire hazard.

Risk to other volunteer workers; Danger from saw blade-damage to limbs, splinters/sawdust in eyes, Danger from felled branches, splitting timber. Fuel leakage and fire hazard.

Risk to public, Danger from felled branches. Fuel leakage and fire hazard.

MITIGATION OF RISK

Equipment:

Must be maintained and serviced regularly, according to manufacturer's instructions.

Protective Clothing:

Operator should wear protective equipment including hard hat, eye protection and ear defenders.

Site Assessment:

Prior to the commencement of work, the site should be inspected and assessed for specific hazards

Safety Zone for operations:

The area in which the chainsaw operator works should be clearly identified, and no-one else should be permitted within this area whilst the chainsaw is running.

A safety supervisor should control the limits of this area and be responsible for keeping all others outside the area whilst the chainsaw is in operation.

The limits of this exclusion area shall vary according to the size, height and nature of the timber being cut, and the gradients of the surrounding land. The area will be at the discretion of the supervisor who shall take the above considerations and the advice of the experienced operator into account.

Visible and Audible Signals:

A signal system should be established to provide communication between the chainsaw operator, the supervisor and the remainder of the work party. The supervisor should familiarise all members of the work party with the signals prior to each day's work.

Where applicable, warning signs should be erected to inform the public of the dangers and to keep them out of the operating area

Safe System of Work:

The chainsaw shall only be used in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.

The operator must be an adult trained or competent and experienced user of a chainsaw.

Unless it has been otherwise discussed with the work party, the operator should work upstream of the rest of the work party. This will make the supervisor's task of monitoring activities easier to observe.

Each time the chainsaw operator intends to begin work, they must check the area is clear and communicate to the supervisor. They must then await the permission of the supervisor to continue.

The supervisor must clearly identify the boundary of the exclusion area. They must check that there is no person other than the operator within this area, and that everyone is aware that cutting is about to commence. They may then signal the operator to proceed.

When cutting has finished the saw must be switched off. Only then can the operator signal to the supervisor that they believe that it is safe for working party members to enter the relevant area. Where other potential hazards still exist (e.g. unstable and slippery banks, uneven riverbed, cut timber which has not yet fallen), the supervisor must warn those entering the area of these hazards.

The chainsaw should not be transported whilst the engine is running.

When cutting up felled timber on the ground, as a general rule, the work party should retire at least 10 metres from the operator.

Protective guards should be placed on the chainsaw when not in use.

Any injury sustained whilst working should be reported to the safety supervisor and logged by the Club Secretary.