** RISK ASSESSMENT & METHOD STATEMENT (RAMS)**

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| Name of Assessor:  | David Shaftoe | Date: | 10th March 2022, Version 2 |
| Task Being Assessed: | **ACTIVITIES BY WATER** |
| Other RAMS to refer to: | **ADVENTURE, CONSERVATION WORK, COVID-19, OUTINGS, TANDEMS , WALKING, WORKING WITH DISABLED PEOPLE** |
| Risk v Benefit analysis: | Working by water is very important for the wellbeing of our members and in order for our conservation groups to carry out tasks such as invasive species removal. There are obvious risks associated with drowning, contaminated water and dangerous plants but these can be minimised by carrying appropriate safety equipment, giving full Toolbox Talks before sessions and avoiding certain areas. |

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| What is the hazard? | Who might be harmed | How might people be harmed | Existing risk control measures | Risk Rating | Additional Controls | New risk rating (Residual) | Action / monitored by whom? | Action / monitored by when? |
| L | C | R | L | C | R |
| **Slips, trips and falls into water** | StaffMembersVolunteersCarers | DrowningInjuries, cuts, bruises, fractures, sprains. | A throw rope is kept in the minibus in the top box. Also taken out in tandem pannier or rucksack when walking and cyclingLeaders to have visual on all group participants during sessions. Ensure group stays within a confined marked out areaHead counts taken more frequently when working by waterBuddy system with volunteers and participants. Particularly important when working with people with poor mental capacity/understanding of dangersNo working on embankments, steep slopes or flooded groundWhen walking by water, make sure slippery areas are avoided and tree roots are highlighted by the front marker to avoid tripsWheelchair tandems are not used near water | 2 | 5 | 10 | New emergency water bag to be carried by leaders whenever working by waterInvestigate ROI of lifejackets | 1 | 5 | 10 | Chief Officer | Every session |
| **Contaminated water** | StaffMembersVolunteersCarers | Risk of waterborne diseases such as Weil’s Disease and other gastro-intestinal illnesses.  | Staff and volunteers to highlight the risks of drinking unfiltered water or entering water at the start of the sessionGloves and other PPE (e.g. waders) to be wornCover grazes and cuts | 1 | 4 | 4 | None identified | 1 | 4 | 4 | Chief Officer | Twice annually |
| **Poisonous water plants** | StaffMembersVolunteersCarers | RashesSkin irritationBlindness Illness  | Do not work on sites with reported blue-green algae bloomsDo not work on sites with giant hogweed. If plant is found (highlight risk and identification during TBTs) whilst working, terminate session and report sightings to the Environment Agency on return to baseFresh water and antiseptic wipes to be found on bus/in rucksack | 2 | 4 | 8 | Toolbox Talks highlight all the dangerous plants found near water | 1 | 4 | 4 | Project Officer / Chief Officer | Every session |
| **Environmental Conditions / Flooding** | StaffMembersVolunteersCarers | DrowningInjuries, cuts, bruises, fractures, sprains.Injury in deep silt | Do not work by water in adverse weather conditions. This includes:* Thunderstorms
* Snow
* Icy conditions
* Wind speeds of over 20mph

If flash flooding looks possible, terminate session immediately Use depth sticks and reccy the site beforehand | 1 | 5 | 5 | None identified | 1 | 5 | 5 | Project Officer | Every session |
| **Electrocution** | StaffMembersVolunteersCarers | Electrical burnsDeath | No electrical tools to be used on flooded ground or during heavy rain | 1 | 5 | 5 | None identified | 1 | 5 | 5 | Chief Officer | Annually |
| **Tools** | StaffMembersVolunteersCarers | Cuts Sprains & strainsWaterborne illnesses | Toolbox talk in safe use of tools at start of dayStore & transport in a safe mannerMinimise splashing with tools | 1 | 3 | 3 | None identified | 1 | 3 | 3 | Activity leader | Every session |
| Method Statement: | 1. Only selected trained staff and volunteers to work by water.
2. Lone working is prohibited when working by water.
3. All participants made aware during the TBT that working on embankments by the water’s edge is prohibited.
4. Gloves to be issued to all workers. Hand cleaning facilities to be identified, especially before eating, drinking & smoking. Carry hand sanitiser with you.
5. Emergency water bag to be carried by all leaders. Check safety equipment in bag is in good condition before use (at least monthly)
6. Minimum ratio of 3 supporters: 7 participants. Increase these ratios when working with members with poor mental capacity.
7. Site safety - High visibility jackets are worn by anybody working on behalf of Open Country
8. Toolbox talks at start of each task. This will include where we will be working and risks associated with working by water.
9. Leader has access to emergency (PI) details, phone, throw rope & first aid kit. Welfare kit and change of clothes in bus. Other supporters to be aware of where to find these items.
10. Be aware of objects or uneven ground along the route that could cause fall into water e.g. overhanging branches, tree roots, puddles, narrow walkways.
11. Continually monitor the physical condition, mood and hydration levels of participants.
12. Carry out ‘reccie walks’ on new routes near water, checking suitability for that group.
13. We do not use wheelchair tandems near water (the front rider would be strapped into their chair if it tipped into the water).
14. Check on well-being of all participants at the start and end of the activity, drawing out concerns and further hazards.
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| Signature of Reviewer: | David_Sig.jpg |

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|  | Severity of impact / consequences |
| Trivial | Minor injury | Over 3 day injury | Major injury | Incapacity or death |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Likelihood | Highly unlikely | 1 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Unlikely | 2 | 2 | 4 | 6 | 8 | 10 |
| Possible | 3 | 3 | 6 | 9 | 12 | 15 |
| Probable | 4 | 4 | 8 | 12 | 16 | 20 |
| Certain | 5 | 5 | 10 | 15 | 20 | 25 |

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| Document Owner | **David Shaftoe** | Classification | **Internal Use** |
| Date of Issue | **30/06/20** | Date of next review | **31/03/23** |