

North York Moors National Park Outdoor Learning Team

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Risk Assessment for: River Investigations (including Clither Beck investigations near Danby, Pickering flooding nr. Lockton and in Pickering)

Other relevant risk assessments:

- **Generic risk assessment for guided walks (specific RA for Pickering Floodline Investigation)**
- **Generic risk assessment for field studies**

Adult to pupil ratio: At least 1 adult to 10 pupils; more adults as appropriate for younger or less able pupils.

Max group size per Activity Leader: usually 30 (larger groups depending on activity)

Provider: NYMNP Outdoor Learning Team

Assessor / Reviewed by: Heather McNiff

Last reviewed: Feb 2022

Next review: Feb 2023

Method for review: All hazards reviewed by:

Annual review / leader feedback / accident & near miss books

Route Details and Emergency Procedures

Refer to risk assessments details opposite

Weather conditions in which activity will be cancelled:

Heavy rain / thunderstorm / lightening / snow, sleet or hail on the ground or falling / when wind strength inhibits normal walking. Check weather forecast prior to activity.

All staff leading activities hold a valid, appropriate first aid qualification and are qualified in Level 1 and Level 2 of the National Water Safety Management Programme. and carry first aid kits, spare clothing, survival bags, blanket, survival shelter (when away from a NP Centre) and have radio/telephone contact with support staff (when off site radio contact between leaders).

Roles and responsibilities of National Park Leaders and visiting teachers are stated in 'Pre-Visit Information' on our website at:

<http://www.northyorkmoors.org.uk/about-us/school-and-group-visits/essential-information>

Risk rating scale where risk rating = likelihood x consequence				Risk rating assuming precautions are taken:
Consequence \ Likelihood of hazard causing harm assuming precautions are taken	1 Minor Injury Incident can be dealt with on site and casualty is able to continue activity	2 Major Injury Casualty cannot continue activity	3 At least 1 fatality	
1 Very unlikely	1	2	3	1 = low risk
2 Occasional	2	4	6	2 to 4 = medium risk
3 Likely	3	6	9	6 to 9 = high risk (unacceptable) Omit activity or change to reduce risk before proceeding

Risk Assessment for Stream Habitat Study / River Investigations (Page 2 of 3)

HAZARD	POTENTIAL HARM	PEOPLE AT RISK	PRECAUTIONS	RISK RATING	NOTES AND ACTIONS
Stream	Slips, trips, falls Getting wet Drowning	Group members	<p>The National Park Activity Leader will:</p> <p>Check footwear before departure. Group leaders advised in advance that pupils will require wellies. Any pupils without wellies to be provided with wellies from kit store where possible.</p> <p>Assess conditions on arrival at the site and not allow anybody to enter the water unless the depth is below the height of the pupils' wellies.</p> <p>Manage the session so that pupils are either sitting on the bank being taught as one large group or working in smaller groups of up to 6 pupils, each of which can be easily watched and supervised by an adult.</p> <p>Allocate each small group a section of stream to work in, with good access and egress and with markers at each end of the work site. Instruct pupils not to go beyond markers. Allocate adults to supervise one or two specific groups so that each small group can be supervised by an adult.</p> <p>Warn of danger of slipping on rocks. Direct pupils to work in slowest flowing sections.</p>	(2 x 2) 4 MEDIUM	Check wellie tread in Feb
Undercut river banks	Falling	Group members	Point out feature, warn of danger, leader to be familiar with site and ensure group members do not stand on top of undercut banks.	(1 x 2) 2 MEDIUM	
Leptospirosis (Weil's disease)	Infection	Group members	<p>Any individuals with cuts, grazes on hands to wear hypo allergenic plasters and nitrile gloves.</p> <p>Direct group to wash hands immediately after activity. Offer anti bac hand gel to groups off site prior to allocated lunchtime.</p> <p>See appendix 2 for information on Leptospirosis</p>	(1 x 3) 3 MEDIUM	Leptospirosis (Weil's disease) - NHS (www.nhs.uk)

Risk Assessment for Stream Habitat Study / River Investigations (Page 3 of 3)

HAZARD	POTENTIAL HARM	PEOPLE AT RISK	PRECAUTIONS	RISK RATING	NOTES AND ACTIONS
Low branches on river banks	Cuts, grazes, injuries to head / eyes.	Group members	Warn of hazard. Avoid leading group / working under low branches.	(2 x 2) 4 MEDIUM	
Turning over rocks	Trapping fingers, injuries to feet.	Group members	Demonstrate the size of the largest rock (appropriate to the pupils' age / ability) which pupils are allowed to turn over/pick up. E.g. do not attempt to move rocks larger than a football.	(2 x 1) 2 MEDIUM	
Field study equipment e.g. tape measures, metre rulers, hand nets etc.	Cuts, grazes, bruises from incorrect use	Group members	Demonstrate correct use of equipment before starting session and supervise closely. See generic risk assessment for field studies.	(1 x 1) 1 LOW	