


RISK ASSESSMENT

LOCATION/ACTIVITY/ISSUE BEING ASSESSED:	Ponds and Rivers at Dinton Activity Centre
SERVICE/TEAM:	Countryside Service
NAME OF ASSESSOR(s):	Mike Bennett
DATE OF ASSESSMENT:	01 December 2025
DATE FOR REVIEW:	December 2026
APPROVED BY:	Signature: _____ Date: 03/03/2026  Name: Gemma Wilford

SUMMARY (* delete as appropriate)	
Risk level without additional controls:	HIGH / MEDIUM / LOW
Additional control measures required:	YES / NO
Risk level with additional controls:	HIGH / MEDIUM / LOW

What are the significant hazards?	What could go wrong? Who could be harmed and how?	What is being done to control the risks?	Amendment notes
Carpark Crossing – pedestrian collision with vehicle	Collision with vehicle Staff Participants	Participants briefed about carpark and vehicles. Asked to buddy up with another child when walking to teaching areas.	
Lost child	Endangered life by losing child Participants	Maintain operating ratios. Use the child buddy system (choose a friend and pair up) and promote responsibility for themselves and others. Identify meeting points during briefing. Use roll call technique, and registers at regular intervals to ensure all participants are re-grouped.	

		<p>Ensure that the group leader understands that they have overall group control responsibility.</p> <p>Operational Lost Person Policy to be followed in case of lost child, a copy is within equipment storage boxes.</p>	
<p>Contact with plants – skin irritants, stings, splinters, thorns, stomach upset.</p>	<p>Injury or illness</p> <p>Participants Staff</p>	<p>Pond ID sheets available for staff.</p> <p>Hand sanitizer and eye wash in first aid kit.</p> <p>Suggested to wash hands after the activity and before eating any food / drink. Participants walked to the café toilets prior to having lunch.</p> <p>Participants encouraged to bring clothing suitable for the environmental conditions.</p> <p>Participants advised not to eat any wild fruit or berries picked from bushes/trees without checking with instructor first.</p>	
<p>Contact with wildlife – bites, stings, stomach upset, Weil’s disease, animal faeces</p>	<p>Injury or illness</p> <p>Dog bite Stings and Bites Allergic reaction to a sting Nettle rash</p> <p>Participants Staff</p>	<p>Briefing to include dangers of animal faeces</p> <p>Briefing to include risks that some plants and animals can bite or sting. Be cautious in handling things. Use of specimen pots, nets etc are strongly advised.</p> <p>Staff to be advised of any participant allergic to bees or wasps and medication carried as required.</p>	

		<p>Guardians (teachers or parents) warned of risk of Weil's Disease and symptoms if exposure is a possibility.</p> <p>Staff to be vigilant for ticks if working in the meadow. Advise any participant/staff members to remove the tick correctly and to see a doctor if any symptoms of Lyme's Disease occur.</p>	
Slips, trips and falls	<p>Tripping on equipment left on the ground Slips and trips on wet or damaged woodwork</p> <p>Participants Staff</p>	<p>Number of people on the board walk is limited to 20 at any one time.</p> <p>Only 10 nets are to be used at any one time. Participants reminded to be spatially aware of others working near and around them.</p> <p>Participants are briefed on how to safely carry the equipment down to the pond.</p> <p>Board walk has rails to help prevent children from falling in.</p> <p>Children advised to kneel and not to lean over the rails too far.</p> <p>Suggested that the adults, leaders and teachers fill up the pond dipping collection trays with pond water rather than children leaning over and reaching down.</p> <p>Board walk checked by Countryside Service, damage to be reported to office at earliest possible time.</p> <p>First Aid kit to be taken on session and radio contact to be maintained with the office. The lead instructor should have a working mobile phone with them with adequate charge.</p>	

<p>Falling into the water</p>	<p>Drowning, hypothermia</p> <p>Participants Staff</p>	<p>Participants reminded about the dangers of water, even if shallow.</p> <p>River studies will be postponed if there is floodwater in the park.</p> <p>If the river flow is moderate, only the ranger will enter the water. If the river is flowing fast and the depth is above welly boots the activity will be cancelled.</p> <p>Welly boots are essential for river studies and a note goes out in the pre-visit information. Spare boots are not provided and the participant will be asked to stay bank based if they don't come with welly boots.</p>	
<p>Misuse of equipment</p>	<p>Sweep nets and pond dipping nets being swung or placed over other participants heads</p> <p>Pond dipping nets used as walking sticks, causing trip hazard.</p> <p>Ranging poles used as walking sticks – sharp pointed ends could puncture feet.</p> <p>Head Injury Eye Injury</p> <p>Participants Staff Members of the Public</p>	<p>Participants to be briefed on proper use and carriage of equipment.</p> <p>Staff reserve the right to prevent participant using the equipment if persistently reoffending.</p>	
<p>Contact with dogs</p>	<p>Dogs walking with owners around the park may not be on a lead or controlled by their owners</p>	<p>Participants briefed not to touch dogs unless they have permission from their owner.</p>	

	Participants may feel anxious around dogs. Participants and staff at risk of being bitten.	Participants briefed not to feed dogs. Participants briefed to try and stay still and calm if dogs are acting aggressively and not to attack the animal which could escalate a situation.	
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REVIEWS AND REVISIONS					
Review date	Name of Assessor	Is assessment still valid?	If not, list adjustments with details of who will action and by when	Approved by Manager	Date of next review
Feb 2020	Nicola Dennis	Yes	Additional notes added about misuse of equipment, and being aware of ticks as a hazard when working in the meadow.	Tanya Lee	Feb 2021
December 2024	Activities Team	Yes	No significant Changes	Mike Bennett	Dec 2025