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| **Assessor** | Jennie Denton  | **Assessment date** | 12/01/25 | **Approved by:**  | Claire Garrity | **Review date:**  | 12/01/26 |
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| **Task hazard –** potential for harm to persons and/or property | **Who’s at risk** | **Precautions –** to reduce risk levels | **Risk level** (see below) - after precautions have been taken | **Person responsible –** for ensuring precautions are taken  |

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| **Slippery river edges**Injury / shock from slipping at river edge or into riverDrowning | all | * Check river edge before activity to ensure no slip/trip hazards
* Correct ratio of adult / child for age group
* Group to walk to river area behind GWT staff / volunteer
* Group stop before reaching the river where instructions and rules for safe dipping/kick sampling are given
* Children work in subgroups and only certain children from each subgroup in river at any one time (4-6 children at a time depending on age) under adult supervision with the rest in group work areas set back from the rivers edge. Reduce no. depending on ratios and age/needs of the group.
* GWT staff to maintain overall supervision and not work with individual groups
* One member of school staff with each group throughout (unless too few school staff available then groups can be supervised by a volunteer)
 | unikely x harmful = slightunikely x very harmful = moderate | GWT teamSchool leadersChildren |
| **River levels swollen**As above | all | * Staff/ volunteer to check river level and water flow speed before use and alter session accordingly (e.g. not dip if river tol high or fast flowing)
* Weather forecast to be checked due & state of river to be assessed on the morning of the visit for safety of activity
* If water is high/fast running then modifications to be made to the activity (i.e. certain measurements not taken, water collected for analysis by GWT staff/volunteer, etc.).
* Too fast/too deep/too flooded – activity can not run.
* River sessions are only bookable from late March-Oct (river likely to be too cold, fast, deep at other times)
 | unikely x very harmful = moderate | GWT team |
| **Nets and equipment**Bruising from being hit by netTripping over net/equipmentNet too big for small children to handle | children | * Demonstrate how to walk sensibly and carefully with net
* Demo how to use the net correctly in the river
* Warn children to keep their distance unless dipping
* Adequate supervision (one school leader per group, at least one volunteer moving between groups and one member of GWT team in the river at a time)
* Programme bookable for children of a certain age to avoid small children in river
 | Likely x slight harm = slight | GWT teamSchool leaders |
| **Inappropriate footwear**Wet,cold feet | all | * All to wear appropriate clothing for the weather/activity.
* Wellies/waders as approriate to kick sample in the river
* Change of footwear for after activity if get wet
 | Likely X slight harm = slight | GWT teamSchool leaders |
| **Leptospirosis (Weil’s disease)**Illness, death | all | * Groups instructed not to put their hands near their faces (eyes, mouth, nose, ears).
* Gloves or waterproof plasters provided if open cuts (group leaders check hands and arms of group members on instruction from GWT staff / vol)
* School staff to ensure GWT staff know if children have latex / plaster allergies (if so, children may not be able to dip in river)
* Wash hands thoroughly in soap at end of session (sanitiser available throughout the session)
* Information on leptospirosis - website references for further info provided on generic school visit taks risk assessment. <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/leptospirosis/>
 | Unlikely x very harmful = moderate | GWT teamSchool leaders |
| **Biosecurity**Risk of transference of waterborne biohazards such bacteria and viruses to another site.Risk of serious illness if ingested.Risk of damage to the aquatic environment if solution is not disposed of correctly. | all | * All ideally arrive with clean/dry wellies.
* Wellies/waders are checked, brushed out if muddy and sprayed with Virkon Aquatic (ie.aquatic disincfectant solution) before and after entering the water – as appropriate.
* GWT staff will spray the wellies/walk through Virkon water
* Equipment **shared** between sites will be cleaned immediately before/after the session.
* Each site (with a pond or river study session) will ideally have its own kit. Eg. nets, trays etc
* Solution will be disposed of appropriately.
 | Unlikely and very harmful = **Moderate**Managed to **slight** | GWT staff advise school to arrive with clean, dry wellies. |

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| **PPE required: e.g. Gloves, Litter picker, Hand washing equipment, Hand sanitizer, Disinfectant wipes, Mobile phone** |
| Latex free gloves and waterproof plasters for river dipping (to cover open cuts) – school staff to ensure GWT staff are informed of plaster / latex allergies A personal first aid kit must be carried. |
| **Other info** |
| Mobile phone, Sanitiser |