Risk Assessment – Environmental Projects

Date of risk assessment completion	17/08/2025

Assessor's name	Wendy Dodson	Date of next review	30/10/2027

Description of risk assessment	Environmental Projects such as Pennywort Clearance or Litter Picking

Location / environment details	Very Sheltered Water

What are the hazards?	Who might be harmed and how?	What are you already doing to control the risks, and who is responsible for this?	Risk level (L/M/H)	Are further controls necessary?
Capsizing	Participants: ● Drowning ● Secondary drowning ● Hypothermia ● Injuries from sharp objects in the water	Session Organiser to ensure that there are competent paddlers to assist with recovery of participants from the water. Session Organiser to ensure that there is a bank based supervisor with throwline to assist in recovering participants from the water. Paddle Leaders to supervise areas where volunteers are working to minimise accident risks.	L	None
Injuries from tools	Participants: ● Cuts from foliage, discarded fishing	Paddle Leader to ensure that all participants are briefed in appropriate usage of any tools and equipment. Paddle Leader to brief all participants on the importance of leaving adequate space to avoid injuring others.	L	None

	tackle, rubbish	Paddle Leaders to supervise areas where volunteers are working to minimise accident risks.		
Cuts from debris	Participants: ● Cuts from foliage, discarded fishing tackle, rubbish	Paddle Leader to ensure that all participants wear gloves. Paddle Leader to brief all participants to be vigilant for sharp hazards. Paddle Leader to brief all participants to use tools instead of hands where possible.	L	None
Strains from lifting	Participants: ● Strains, sprains & breaks	Paddle Leader to brief all participants on the dangers of heavy lifting. Paddle Leader to brief all participants on safe lifting techniques (bend knees not backs). Paddle Leader to advise splitting loads into smaller and more manageable chunks. Paddle Leaders to supervise areas where volunteers are working to minimise accident risks.	L	None
Slips, trips and falls	Participants and general public: ● Strains, sprains & breaks	Participants to take reasonable measures to ensure that all areas are kept tidy at all times to remove trip hazards. Participants to ensure careful movement on the bank, particularly in wet, muddy, or slippery locations, and when carrying equipment. Participants to ensure that boats and equipment are positioned tidily and off pathways when on the bank. Paddle Leaders to supervise areas where volunteers are working to minimise accident risks.	L	None
Spread of invasive species		Session Organiser to ensure that all boats and equipment are cleaned after the session.	L	None

Notes:

This risk assessment is intended to cover: inexperienced participants; and risks specifically from the environmental project activities. This is to be used in addition to the usual paddling risk assessment for the relevant craft and environment.