

Risk Assessment for water sampling & testing from bridges & banks

To be issued to all volunteers testing water quality.

Assessed by: Ric Cooper, Ian Brown

Date: March 2026

Date of Review: March 2027

Hazard	Potential Harm	Likelihood	Severity	Risk Factor	Precautions	Further Control
Deep and /or fast Water	Drowning. Hypothermia, slips and trips into water with possible injury.	3	5	15	DO NOT ENTER THE WATER IF IT IS ABOVE KNEE DEEP UNLESS YOU ARE WEARING A LIFE JACKET. Whenever possible work from the bank or a bridge, check stability of bank and seek safe site before approaching the water. Do not enter even shallow water when it is in spate and/or when flooding is possible.	Wherever possible take water samples using telescopic sampling pole from bridges, particularly if the river is deep, fast or high-water levels are expected. Have change of clothes and towel nearby. Work with a buddy whenever possible. Always have a mobile phone available to call for help. Always ensure someone knows where you are and when you will return. Let that person know when you are safe and you have finished the activity. If you are not able to collect to your sample using a public right of way always have the land owners permission.

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Rough uneven or slippery ground.	Injuries arising from slips trips and falls.	3	5	15	Wear suitable footwear for the terrain. Before each sample collection assess the terrain for potential hazards and only collect the sample when it is safe to do so.	Work with a buddy whenever possible. Always have a mobile phone available to call for help. Always ensure someone knows where you are and when you will return. Let that person know when you are safe and you have finished the activity. If you are not able to collect to your sample using a public right of way always have the land owners permission.
Adverse weather. Heat/Cold/Wind/Ice/Snow	Injuries arising from slips trips and falls, falling branches and heat or cold.	3	5	15	Always wear appropriate clothing and footwear. Before each sample collection assess the terrain for potential hazards and only collect the sample when it is safe to do so. Use sun protection when necessary, carry water and stay hydrated. Limit exposure time to adverse conditions.	Work with a buddy whenever possible. Always have a mobile phone available to call for help. Always ensure someone knows where you are and when you will return. Let that person know when you are safe and you have finished the activity. If you are not able to collect to your sample using a public right of way always have the land owners permission.
Aggressive animals	Injury from livestock or aggressive domesticated animals	3	5	15	Check the sampling area before entry. Be aware of and keep your distance from any livestock or animals. If you have a dog with you ensure it is on a lead and controlled. Do not enter an area unless it is safe to do so.	Move away from any threat immediately. Work with a buddy whenever possible. Always have a mobile phone available to call for help. Always ensure someone knows where you are and when you will return. Let that person know when you are safe and you have finished the activity. If you are not able to collect to your sample using a public right of way always have the land owners permission.

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Difficult or aggressive people.	Verbal or physical assault.	2	3	6	Keep calm, do not argue and leave the area. Always ensure you have the land owners permission or ensure you are on a public access right of way. If it is not possible to leave safely and you have any concern for your safety call the police using 999.	Once it is safe to do so report the incident to the police. Also notify Ian Brown or Ric Cooper. Work with a buddy whenever possible. Always have a mobile phone available to call for help. Always ensure someone knows where you are and when you will return. Let that person know when you are safe and you have finished the activity.
Travelling to or from your collection site.	Road traffic accident or slip a trip or fall.	2	5	10	Always be aware of your surroundings whether travelling in a vehicle or as a pedestrian. Ensure you are away from traffic whilst collecting your sample. If you are collecting a sample adjacent to a public highway wear high visibility clothing. If you are injured seek medical help as appropriate.	Work with a buddy whenever possible. Always have a mobile phone available to call for help. Always ensure someone knows where you are and when you will return. Let that person know when you are safe and you have finished the activity.
Water borne and environmental hazards.	Infections.	2	4	8	Infections such as Weil's disease Lyme disease can be encountered whilst water sampling. Cover Any breaks in skin with a waterproof dressing. If necessary, wear waterproof gloves. Wash your hands well after any water testing especially before you eat or drink. If you are bitten by a tick remove it using tweezers.	If you unwell after water testing seek medical attention and inform the medical professional of the activity you have undertaken and the potential for infection. Take the dynamic risk assessment card with you and provide this to the medical professional
Test equipment.	Adverse reaction following exposure to chemicals.	3	2	5	Only use equipment once you have been trained. Always familiarize yourself with any hazard warning labels.	Seek medical attention if you have any adverse reaction following use of chemicals using 111, and if a medical review is required take the chemical

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					Store all equipment in a safe place and out of reach of children. Cover any breaks in skin with a waterproof dressing or wear waterproof gloves. Reacted water samples should be disposed of down a wastewater sink or toilet. Reacted ammonia samples should be kept in a sealed container and and passed to Ric Cooper or disposal. Always wash hands after any use of chemicals.	container/packet with you. Report any adverse reaction to Ian Brown.
Vegetation.	Adverse/allergic reaction to plants.	2	2	4	Wear suitable clothing especially when you may come into contact with undergrowth whilst collecting your sample to minimize skin exposure.	If you get Giant Hogweed sap on your skin wash the area with and cool water as soon as you can. Keep the skin covered and out of direct sunlight. Seek medical advice using 111.

Training Log. List All training received and undertaken and record the dates in te

Training	Date Completed	Trainer
Phosphate Photometer		
Nitrate Photometer		
Ammonia Photometer		
pH and Temperature monitor		
Secchi Turbidity Tubes		
Flow rate measurements		
H&S advice/ risk assessment read and understood		

Risk Understood and training received.

By:

At:

Date: