

Gilling West Fly Fishers

Risk Assessment (Fishing)

This is a generic risk assessment for guidance only. Every angler must carry out their own personal risk assessment.

People at risk			Evaluation of risk			Potential hazard	Control measures (Prior to session)	Control measures (On the day / during session)	Date this entry was made
Participants	Visitors	Public	Likelihood	Severity	Overall				
1			2	5	10	Falling in the water and drowning.	Check the weather forecast. Check wading stick / buoyancy vest is packed (if required). Find out where the deep pools are. Ask another angler if you are not sure.	-Use a wading stick. -Do not wade when beck is in flood or water level is rising fast. -Avoid known deep holes in river bed. -Consider wearing a buoyancy vest. -Go fishing with a friend. 1 x 5 = 5	16 Feb 2025
1			2	5	10	Getting your line caught up in over head power cables and being Electrocutted.	Ensure you know the locations of power lines in the area you are going to fish.	-Do not cast near power lines. -Do not use rod during thunder storms. -lower rod when passing under power cables. 0 x 5 = 0	

1	Yes	Yes	2	4	8	Eye injury and potential loss of sight from fishing hooks when casting.	Check that you have packed your glasses. Check your hooks.	-Execute the cast safely. -Check back cast area. is clear before casting. -Use barbless hooks. -Carry first aid kit. $1 \times 4 = 4$	
1			2	3	6	Physical injury due to trips and falls when accessing the water or whilst wading.	Inform a friend or family member of where you plan to fish and what time you intend to be home so that they know where to come looking for you if you sustain a bad injury and have to stay put.	-Move slowly and carefully along the bank side or when wading. -Take care negotiating holes and obstructions. -Keep away from areas where it looks like the bank might collapse. -Take care when negotiating stiles. -Wear studded boots whilst wading. -Go fishing with a friend. -Carry a mobile phone in case you need to summon help. $1 \times 3 = 3$	

1			5	4	20	Ingesting contaminated water or becoming infected by contaminated water resulting in illness from pollution or water bourne diseases i.e. Weils disease or E.coli.	Ensure that you understand the risk to anglers from water bourne diseases and pollution. Read the Angling Trust publication on health and safety for anglers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Do not put wet flies or fishing line etc. in your mouth. -Cover cuts and open wounds that might come into contact with water from the beck. -Carry hand gel and antiseptic wipes. -Thoroughly clean hands before handling food whilst out fishing. -If you feel ill during or after fishing seek medical advice. <p>1 x 4 = 4</p>	
1			2	4	8	Exposure to freezing temperatures or extreme cold resulting in frost bite or hypothermia.	Check the weather forecast. If very low temperatures are expected prepare for the conditions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Wear thermal clothing in extreme cold weather. -Wear gloves and a warm hat. -Do not stay in the water for too long in the winter. -Carry a thermos flask. -Use hand / feet warmers. -Wear waterproof clothing to keep dry. <p>1 x 4 = 4</p>	
1			2	3	6	Being bitten by ticks which can potentially cause Lymes disease.	Read the Angling Trust publication on health and safety for anglers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Cover up exposed flesh whenever possible. -Consider carrying a tick removal tool. -Inspect body for ticks at the earliest opportunity. <p>1 x 3 = 3</p>	

1			2	4	8	Trampling by cattle.		-Avoid crossing fields where cattle are grazing. -Do not enter fields if calves are present. 1 x 4 = 4	
1			2	2	4	Injury from barbed wire whilst climbing over fences.		-Only cross barbed wire fencing at styles provided. -Carry a first aid kit. 1 x 2 = 2	
1			2	2	4	Painful skin burns from contacting nettles or plants such as giant hog weed.	Giant Hog Weed is not present on Gilling Beck but there are lots of nettles.	-Keep skin covered up. -Wear gloves. 2 x 1 = 2	
1			2	3	6	Having a heart attack or other medical emergency whilst fishing.	Inform a friend or family member of where you plan to fish and what time you intend to be home.	-Carry a mobile phone. -Carry a first aid kit. -Carry essential medication. 1 x 3 = 3	

Likelihood	Severity						Risk: 1-3 = Low Risk 4-6 = Moderate Risk 8-12 = High Risk 15 – 25 = Extreme Risk	People at risk Participants Contractor Land Owner Young Persons Visitor / Public	Likelihood 1. Low 2. Possible 3. Occasional 4. Common 5. Likely	Severity 1. Low 2. Slight 3. Moderate 4. High 5. Severe / Very High
		1	2	3	4	5				
	1	1	2	3	4	5				
	2	2	4	6	8	10				
	3	3	6	9	12	15				
	4	4	8	12	16	20				
5	5	10	15	20	25					

Managing Risk

If Severity is:

1. **Low: No immediate action required.**
2. **Moderate: Activity can proceed with adequate controls to ensure risk is ALARP (As Low As Reasonably Practicable).**
3. **High: Activity MUST be modified to ALARP levels.**
4. **Extreme: Activity cannot proceed to current plan.**

Casualty Evacuation:

RV for ambulance if casualty evacuation required, Gilling Beat: The road bridge, High Street, Gilling West.
W3W for the RV:///trackers.snake.skips

The ford at Olliver Lane.
W3W for the RV:///firelight.screening.drifters

RV for ambulance if casualty evacuation required, Hartforth Beat: Water lane car park.
W3W for the RV:///decades.dwarf.necks
The bridge on the track to the Wedding Barn.
W3W for the RV:///squirts.reds.booth

Nearest Hospital

Darlington Memorial Hospital, Hollyhurst Road, Darlington, DL3 6HX.
Main reception: 01325 380100.

Notes

Hazard

A hazard is something that has the potential to cause harm, injury, illness, or damage to people, property, or the environment. Examples include wet floors, sharp tools, hazardous chemicals, or heavy lifting.

Risk

Risk is the likelihood that harm, injury, or damage will occur due to exposure to a hazard, combined with the severity of the potential consequences. Risk is often expressed as a combination of **likelihood** and **severity / impact**.

Multiply the **likelihood** by the **severity** to get the level of **risk** e.g. 2 (likelihood possible) x 3 (severity / impact moderate) = 6 (moderate risk)

4 (likelihood common) x 5 (severity / impact very high) = 20 (extreme risk)

What is a Risk Assessment?

A risk assessment is a systematic process used to identify hazards, evaluate the associated risks, and implement measures to reduce or eliminate those risks. It ensures the safety of individuals and compliance with legal requirements.

Steps in Risk Assessment:

1. **Identify Hazards:** Determine what could potentially cause harm.
2. **Evaluate Risks:** Assess the likelihood and severity of harm from each hazard.
3. **Implement Controls:** Introduce measures to reduce the risk, such as safety procedures or protective equipment.
4. **Record Findings:** Document the assessment and actions taken.
5. **Review and Update:** Regularly revisit the assessment to ensure it remains relevant and effective.