

Nidderdale Angling Club

Risk Assessment Master Document

This document is meant to aid anglers in determining the risks involved with activities on the river.

LOW
Acceptable



Medium
Acceptable with additional controls



High
Unacceptable - do not commence job



Persons at risk

Member/STC/DT	Mem
Public	P
Contractor	Con
Land Owner	LO
Young Persons	YP
Visitors	VST

Low
Possible
Occasional
Common
Likely

Probability (P)

1	Low
2	Slight
3	Moderate
4	High
5	Severe/Very High

Severity (S)

1
2
3
4
5

Likelihood	Severity				
	1	2	3	4	5
1	1	2	3	4	5
2	2	4	6	8	10
3	3	4	9	12	15
4	4	8	12	16	20
5	5	10	15	20	25

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Activity	General access and angling related activities					Master Document	NAC-Master	2 of 2	
Hazards	Risks	Existing Conditions and Controls	Risk Assess (Existing Controls)			Additional Control Measures (To Reduce the Risk)	Residual Risk (With Controls)		
			P	S	R		p	S	R
Access to the River	Slips, Trips, and Falls (Mem/Con/Vst)	Access to the river invariably requires ingress and egress by means of some steep, high, and uneven banks. NAC have prepared guidelines for anglers with regard to the care and attention that should be exercised. This information is particularly important for visiting anglers, and those that are new to the club, and unfamiliar with the waters.	3	3	9	Guidelines for anglers have been distributed to all members. NAC will periodically discuss bank safety and general access matters during committee meetings.	1	3	3
	Access Aids :- Steps etc. (Mem/Vst)	Some 'access aids' in the form of wooden steps have been installed by NAC at various locations along the river. However, these steps are to aid and assist with access, and cannot be certified as safe and serviceable on a perpetual basis as there serviceability can be compromised by river conditions, and impact from flood transported debris etc. NAC will periodically inspect fabricated access points, and maintain them in a serviceable condition as far as is reasonably practicable. NAC have prepared guidelines for anglers accordingly.	2	3	6	Guidelines for anglers have been distributed to all members. NAC will periodically inspect fabricated access points, maintain in a serviceable condition, or prohibit use by suitable signage if the access becomes damaged.	1	3	3
	Fixed Platforms & Stages (Mem/Vst)	Pre-fabricated and NAC installed platforms are provided for disabled persons access. These platforms are suitable for wheelchair access. It is recommended that disabled anglers are accompanied by a physically able person. Risks associated with disabled anglers falling into the river should be eliminated if the angler uses the NAC provided access platforms. NAC do not permit physically disabled or wheelchair anglers to fish any other part of the river.	2	5	10	Guidelines for disabled anglers will be provided by the club. A representative of the club should meet with any new disabled members and provide river safety guidance.	1	4	4
	Wading	The river bed on NAC waters predominantly comprises of large stones and rocks. The river bed is uneven, and wading can be difficult, with deep holes that are often not visible.	3	4	12	It is recommended that all anglers use a wading staff or similar pole or stick. NAC anglers should not wade when river conditions are not suitable	2	3	6
	Undercut Banks (Mem/Vst/Con)	Some banks have been undercut by water flow. Care should be taken when approaching bank edges particularly where the river is deep. Bank edges can give way under the weight of the angler, and risk of falling into the river is present.	2	4	8	Guidelines for anglers have been distributed to all members.	1	4	4

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			P	S	R		p	S	R
Access to The River	Footpaths & Stiles (Mem/Vst/Con)	The majority of footpaths that provide access to the river belong to private land owners. Some are public rights of way, some are for the sole use of NAC members, and the land owners. The condition and upkeep of the footpaths are in the main, not the responsibility of NAC. The quality of the footpaths and access varies. Anglers require to be aware of the terrain, obstacles such as tree roots, stones, holes, and other tripping hazards.	2	2	4	Guidelines for anglers have been distributed to all members. NAC will periodically review the condition of footpaths via feedback from committee meeting river reports. Any footpaths that are considered to be a danger or hazard, will be referred to the land owner, or appropriate authority.	1	2	2
		Stiles are typically erected where fences or walls obstruct the continuation of passage along the footpath. NAC periodically reviews the condition of stiles, and maintains them in serviceable condition as far as is reasonable practicable. Anglers require to be vigilant regarding the condition of any stile before use. If the stile is damaged or unsafe, it should be reported to NAC.	2	2	4	Stiles will be inspected at least twice per year and maintained in good condition	1	2	2
	Bridges/ Crossings & Weirs (Mem/Vst/Con)	Bridges that cross the river and provide access to NAC waters are not the responsibility of NAC to maintain in good condition. Care should be taken when crossing the Joglyn Bridge for example, especially in wet or winter conditions.	1	3	3	Bridge structures are not maintained by NAC. Any defects that present a risk to NAC anglers should be reported immediately, and any resulting actions to remedy faults or damage will be managed by the officers of NAC	1	2	2
		Weirs are potentially dangerous, and no attempt should be made to cross them. NAC cannot prevent access to weirs by fencing or other means. It is therefore the anglers sole responsibility to exercise good river safety, and avoid the weir structure and turbulent waters at the base of the weir	1	5	5	Guidelines for anglers have been distributed to all members. It is the anglers responsibility to exercise good river safety	1	2	2

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							NAC-Master 2 of 2		
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			P	S	R		p	S	R
Access to The River & Fishing	Overhead Power Lines (Mem/Vst)	Overhead high voltage power lines cross the river, the banks, footpaths, and fields that abut the river. High voltage power lines present a significant risk to anglers, and contact with fishing equipment can be fatal or cause severe injury. The power lines that cross the river are generally fitted with signage on the poles that warn of the danger. The signage is fitted by the equipment owner (Northern Electric for example). NAC do not erect or post signage warning of high voltage risk. NAC cannot also confirm that all signage is in place. Anglers must at all times be vigilant regarding the proximity of high voltage lines and equipment when fishing, and when carrying rods.	2	5	10	Guidelines for anglers have been distributed to all members. Anglers will be notified of the presence of high voltage overhead lines within the region of the waters and land that form NAC. It is the anglers responsibility to be observant of the location of overhead lines and equipment whilst on NAC land and waters, and to exercise due caution when fishing.	1	5	5
	Livestock (Mem/Vst/Con)	Livestock are present in the fields that abut the banks and waters of NAC, and the footpaths that provide access to the river. Livestock, especially cattle, can be unpredictable, and due caution should be exercised when cattle are present.	2	4	8	Anglers, visitors, and contractors should always avoid unnecessary contact or disturbance of cattle and other livestock.	1	5	5
	Scar House Reservoir	Additional to the obvious risk of deep and cold water, access to the margins and waters edge of the reservoir can present some risks under certain conditions. Low water levels expose soft sand and mud, and care should be taken under such conditions. The banks in places are steep, and care should be exercised when accessing the waters edge. Wading and access into the water is not permitted	2	5	10	Guidelines for anglers have been distributed to all members.	1	5	5

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End of document – updated March 2021