

Sample Generic Risk Assessment – Field Study Near Water, (River, Stream or Pond Dipping).

***In addition to evidence of recent and relevant experience of activity, leader must have discussed with OEA nature and location of water. In remote terrain, leader must hold relevant walking award. If activity IN water is proposed, leader competence must be approved by LEA Outdoor Education Adviser (OEA).***

Generic Risk Assessment – Field Study Near Water.			
Hazard	People Harmed	Risk Control	Further Action
Extreme weather, cold water	All	Consideration of forecast and conditions of day, provision of suitable clothing, footwear and equipment, dry spare clothing and emergency equipment.	Pre planning, equipment lists to group, kit checked before departure
Proximity to water	Young People	Risk assessment of route, banks, crossings etc Awareness that water levels change and need to assess conditions before and during activity Other route MUST be taken if route (e.g. bank side path, stepping stones) unsafe Good supervision of pupils to ensure sensible behaviour.	Pre planning and assessment on day
Planned activity IN water (for field studies etc)	All	Each location must be individually risk assessed by leader with advice from LEA Outdoor Education Adviser before visit. Use sites where: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- easy access and exit from water</li> <li>- no significant hazards on banks e.g. (water flowing onto overhanging trees)</li> <li>- no immediate significant down stream hazards (waterfalls etc)</li> <li>- pupils can stand easily in water to be entered</li> <li>- pupils can be seen and supervised by staff</li> </ul>	Written specific risk assessment and/or operating procedure approved by OEA  Ongoing assessment by leader at start and during activity

		Weather forecast obtained and leader makes decision whether or not to proceed or adapt activity on basis of weather forecast, strength of water and conditions on day.	
Weil's disease pollution	All	Do not use obviously contaminated sites Obtain and follow LEA guidelines re Weil's Disease Take sensible hygiene precautions: cover wounds grazes etc, do not drink river water, wash hands before eating,	Take advice from Environment Agency if necessary
Informal swimming	All	Never allow impromptu swimming or paddling – always risk assess the proposed venue in advance for currents, rocks, weeds, nature of bottom and sides, Also assess ability of pupils and staff and activities proposed. You must arrange: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Safe area</li> <li>• Signals for distress and recall</li> <li>• Lifesaver and observers (adults to stay out of water)</li> <li>• Head counts</li> <li>• Briefing of pupils and staff</li> </ul>	Staff must hold relevant Open Water Lifesaving Award Written specific risk assessment required.