

Dynamic Risk Assessment for Ecological Survey: Ponds

TOOLS / EQUIPMENT

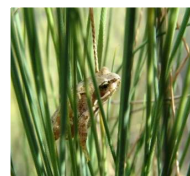
- A copy of this risk assessment form and pen/pencil
- A survey buddy physically capable to gain help if needed (it is not recommended to survey near water alone).
- Separate survey equipment of a means to clear shared equipment
- A rope and first aid kit for emergencies (pond surveys should be undertaken from dry land, and not from within the waterline and therefore this is for emergency use i.e. trips/falls)
- A charged mobile phone and way to contact someone if there are problems
- Do I have emergency contact numbers stored/with me that I can phone?
- Appropriate footwear with good grips and ankle support
- Appropriate clothing for today's weather
- Do I have all other accessories needed for today's weather (sun cream/sunglasses/sun-hat/sleeves in sunny weather/warm hat/scarf/gloves/raincoat/warm clothes/thick trousers to protect from stings and thorns/high visibility if walking along roads)
- Sufficient drinking water, more in hot weather.
- Appropriate food for surveying period and emergencies.
- The means to clean hands prior to eating or drinking and equipment.
- A torch (for emergency use, surveying should not take place after dark)
- Have additional warm dry clothing and foil blankets available in first aid kit.

PREPARATION

- Does someone know where I am, when I should be back and that I will inform them I am back, and what to do if there are any problems?
- Do I feel safe in the area that I am surveying?
- Do I have appropriate knowledge of first aid?
- Am I and my survey buddy fit enough to carry out the survey today?
- Do I have any particular risks e.g. previous allergic reactions to stings, and have I taken precautions to address these?
- Am I aware of the weather forecast and possible changes?
- Do I have sufficient time in daylight?
- If using kit such as a grapnel, I have been trained and am aware of safe use?

SITE DYNAMIC ASSESSMENT

In the event of any of these aspects reducing safety, do not continue surveying in an unsafe situation and ensure sensible precautions are taken.



- Do I know a safe and appropriate place to park and to enter the site?
- Is the site safe to walk today (no dangerous ground/obstructed paths/slippery surfaces/dangerous livestock)?
- Site is safe in today's weather (avoid working in wooded areas in strong winds/avoid if the site is flooded)?
- No other activities taking place which may increase risk to me to an unacceptable level (site maintenance/sports/traffic).
- Assess whether areas of the site have specific risks (e.g. deep water to avoid edges of/steep ground/steep drops/machinery/electrical or barbed wires).
- Assess the ground of the water edge with a stick to ensure you avoid any unstable areas
- Are there any notices/signs? Advice from these should be observed during visit.
- Identify good places to carry out work e.g. shaded areas in sunny weather.
- Avoid biohazards e.g. toxic plants, stings, animal faeces, caterpillars.

OVERALL

- Am I happy that it is safe to proceed with survey?

SAFETY

- **DO NOT WORK ALONE**
- Follow government rules with regards to coronavirus (COVID-19). Only survey when you are well, with no possible symptoms of coronavirus, apply at least the 2-metre distance rule, regularly sanitise hands and equipment (avoid sharing kit).
- Observe all notices/signs during your visit
- Be aware of weather conditions and light levels.
- Avoid touching anything that could be hazardous.
- Survey from land and do not enter the pond beyond the waterline.
- Avoid livestock, machinery, barbed wire and electric fences. Cross fences at stiles or use gates.
- Park safely and take care crossing roads.

EMERGENCY CONTACTS

For **police** service, **fire** service or **ambulance** service dial **999**

Hospitals with accident and emergency department

Northampton General Hospital 01604 634700

Kettering General Hospital 01536 492345

