



# OFFSITE RISK ASSESSMENT – RIVER STUDIES

Next Gen Alternative  
Provision

<b>ACTIVITY:</b> Offsite Visits – River Studies			<b>Visit Leader:</b>	
<b>Visit Details:</b>			<b>Date of Visit:</b>	
<b>Assessment by:</b>		<b>Date:</b>	<b>Target Date for review:</b>	
<b>Approved by:</b>		<b>Position:</b>	<b>Date:</b>	
<b>Significant Hazards and Associated Risks</b> Those hazards which may result in serious harm or affect several people	<b>Those who might be harmed</b> Persons at risk from the significant hazards identified	<b>Control Measures (CM's):</b> Controls, including relevant sources of guidance (e.g. Generic Risk Assessments, Guidance from Provider, etc.). Specific CM's not included in the generic RA (e.g. briefings, actions by leaders / participants, qualifications / experience of supervisors)	<b>Additional CM's required?</b> If existing CM's cannot be met or circumstances have changed	<b>Residual Risk Rating (H / M / L)</b>
All accidents	All group members, including leaders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This generic risk assessment will be read in addition to the generic risk assessment "General Considerations"</li> </ul>		
Inappropriate Leadership	Group members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Visit leaders will be familiar with and will follow HCC Policy for the Management of LOtC and Offsite Visits and any local guidance offered by site managers</li> <li>Visit leaders will be familiar with the OEAP's National Guidance document 7h, "Field studies"</li> <li>Activity management takes account of group characteristics.</li> <li>Leaders trained, competent and experienced with clearly defined roles and responsibilities for all staff</li> <li>The river will be pre-visited and specifically risk assessed by the leader, with advice from others who know the site well and can advise on hazards (e.g. changing water levels) and particular control measures and / or operating procedures required</li> </ul>		

<p>Unsuitable location Slips, falls, collisions → injury</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Section of water used is suitable and presents no significant risks e.g.             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ no broken glass/ barbed wire etc.</li> <li>○ no steep or slippery banks</li> <li>○ no soft mud or unstable banks that are likely to collapse</li> <li>○ good visibility for leaders to supervise and monitor whole area used</li> <li>○ rocks are not unduly slippery</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Each group member wears appropriate footwear</li> <li>• Group is set, and stays within, clear boundaries which define an area that can be properly supervised</li> <li>• Group briefed regarding required behaviour:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ not to throw stones</li> <li>○ not to push others into water</li> <li>○ be particularly careful at the water's edge</li> <li>○ step slowly / carefully and beware of slipping on wet rocks</li> <li>○ no diving/jumping into waters is allowed</li> </ul> </li> </ul>		
<p>Water Unexpected immersion → hypothermia, drowning</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prior local knowledge sought and acted upon, regarding the any specific hazards</li> <li>• Information obtained about rainfall and water levels during the previous few days prior to the activity</li> <li>• Decision made on the day whether or not to proceed with, or adapt, activity on basis of weather forecast, depth/flow of water etc.</li> <li>• Appropriate checks made as to any hazards downstream or round the corner (fallen tree, fence, weir, waterfall)</li> <li>• Sites chosen with a safe, gently sloping bank / shore , with no sudden changes in depth / gradient where group members can enter / exit water easily</li> <li>• Regular and frequent head counts are made by staff</li> <li>• Leaders trained in use of, and carry, appropriate rescue equipment e.g. throw-lines(N.B. it is usually safer for rescuer to remain on bank, if possible)</li> <li>• All staff are briefed in rescue procedures</li> </ul>	<p>Final decision to be made on the day whether or not to proceed or adapt activity on basis of weather forecast, depth / strength of water etc</p> <p>Alternative plan B has been prepared and available if conditions are not suitable</p>	

<p>Rise in water level, increased strength of current ☹️drowning</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Spare clothes and a towel carried by group in case someone falls in</li> <li>• Swimming is not allowed (unless a pre-planned part of the activity – see generic risk assessment “Swimming in Open Waters”)</li> <li>• Up-to-date checks are made beforehand regarding the suitability of the weather forecast for the day and conditions over the past few days (N.B. conditions might alter considerably from previous visits)</li> <li>• If the river is subject to “releases” from a dam upstream, checks made with the water authorities to ensure the group is not at risk</li> </ul>		
<p>Infection from water (including Weils Disease)</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Leaders to check there are no obvious sources of pollution present (e.g. dead animal upstream)</li> <li>• Group members not to drink the water</li> <li>• Group to wash hands after the activity, and before eating or drinking</li> <li>• Cuts and wounds are protected by waterproof plasters</li> </ul>		
<p>Extremes of weather</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Group is suitably clothed according to the prevailing conditions and with due regard to the weather forecast</li> </ul>		

<b>REVIEWS:</b>		
<b>DATE OF REVIEW:</b>	<b>REVIEWED BY:</b>	<b>COMMENTS:</b>
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