



Risk assessment.

Name of activity, event, and location	Pond Dipping Bowley International Scout Centre	Date of risk assessment	3 rd March 2025	Completed by	Chris Harrop
		Date of next review	3 rd March 2027	Authorised by	Chris Taylor

What could go wrong? What hazard have you identified? What are the risks from it?	Who is at risk?	What are you going to do about it? How are the risks already controlled? What extra controls are needed? How will they be communicated to young people and adults and remain inclusive to all needs?	Review & revise What has changed that needs to be thought about and controlled?
A hazard is something that may cause harm or damage. The risk is the harm that may occur from the hazard.	For example: young people, adult volunteers, visitors	Controls are ways of making the activity safer by removing or reducing the risk. For example, you may use a different piece of equipment or you might change the way you do the activity.	Keep checking throughout the activity in case you need to change what you're doing or even stop the activity. This is a great place to add comments which will be used as part of the review.
Hazard: Slips, trips and falls Risk: Personal injury	Instructors Participants Spectators	Clear any moveable trip hazards from the area before starting the session. Advise participants not to run around the pond and that the ground is uneven as part of the safety briefing.	
Hazard: Falling in, cold water shock and drowning Risk: Personal injury / possible fatality	Participants	Set clear boundaries for where to go and ensure there is a means for these to be observed (e.g. working in pairs, good supervision, verbal control) Younger groups may be restricted to fewer areas where you can provide closer supervision. Explain how to pond dip effectively – not overreaching with the nets, making a sweeping not jabbing motion. Tell the group not to intentionally go in the water When dipping this should be done from a kneeling, or lying down position.	
Hazard: Misuse of equipment	Instructors Participants	Explain how use nets correctly – not overreaching with the nets, making a sweeping, not jabbing motion.	

You can find more information in the Safety checklist for leaders and at scouts.org.uk/safety

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Risk: Personal injury		Warn participants about hazard of waving nets around as they may hit someone else	
Hazard: Injury from minibeasts Risk: Personal injury	Instructors Participants	Tell participants not to touch any of the minibeasts/pond insects but to use the equipment provided. Tell participants to be vigilant for other hazards - such as wasps' nests and ticks.	
Hazard: Sickness from poor hygiene Risk: Illness	Instructors Participants	Food and drink should not be consumed during the activity. Tell all participants to wash their hands, lower arms and faces thoroughly after the activity.	
Hazard: Water contamination – Weil's disease Risk: Illness	Instructors Participants	Check for contamination and evidence of vermin. Cover any cuts and grazes. Wash hands/arms and or shower after activity. Food and drink should not be consumed during the activity.	
Hazard: Extreme weather Risk: Sunburn, hypothermia, hyperthermia	Participants	Staff to check weather forecasts before activity, observe throughout, stop activity if necessary and move to safety. Ensure participants have suitable clothing and access to warm/cold drinks. Brief on sun protection.	
Hazard: Unauthorised use Risk: Personal injury	Participants	The pond is fenced all the way around, with a gate for entry / exit. The gate must be locked when the activity is not taking place. Equipment not to be left unattended when out of the activity store. Equipment is kept in the activity store when not in use.	

Don't forget, as part of your programme planning, you should have contingency activities in reserve just in case you can't do what was planned or you need to stop half way through. Make sure this is shared with those involved, so everyone knows how to respond. You should have risk assessed contingency activities prior to them taking place and communicated key information to those involved as with all activities.

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