

River Sampling - Risk Assessment Checklist (v1.0)

u3a Name: Pershore & District	Date:
Name of person completing risk assessment checklist:	
Interest Group: Environmental Issues	
Description of Activity: River Sampling – weekly sampling and testing of water samples from designated locations along the River Avon in the vicinity of Pershore.	

This checklist is to help people who are carrying out river testing to plan their activities and stay safe. This isn't an exhaustive list, so think carefully about any specific risks you may encounter. It is likely that you will need to add to this risk assessment checklist. This form can and should be altered to suit specific conditions that might occur on any given day at any of the locations where river testing takes place. Where you identify a particular risk you should note the actions you will take to reduce the risk. It's important to carry out a risk assessment before the river testing takes place, and you can always add to this during the time that testing is being conducted.

Checklist	Yes	No	N/A	Suggested actions to mitigate any identified risk. Consider these and make additions as needed.
Weather				
Have you checked the weather forecast for the day of the testing you will be carrying out?				<i>Review weather forecast and conditions Postpone/delay if weather not suitable</i>
Is there any danger of extreme temperatures, heavy rainfall, high wind or otherwise severe weather?				<i>Dehydration: take drinks Sun damage: wear sunscreen / hat Hypothermia: wear appropriate clothing</i>
Do you have suitable clothes and footwear, and appropriate items (such as waterproofs) for the weather?				<i>Wear appropriate clothing</i>
Traffic				
If you drive to the testing site, is there a place nearby where you can park safely?				<i>Park safely, avoid blocking access</i>
Testing Location				
Is there a possibility of flooding at the site where the testing will take place?				<i>Postpone/delay in the event of flooding Find a nearby, safe site to take samples</i>
Is your route or the site used by others (walkers, cyclists, people fishing)?				<i>Be courteous to other users Give priority to pedestrians and people fishing</i>
Are you familiar with the river testing location, and have you identified any hazards and/or obstacles on your route, or at the site itself?				<i>Check for site hazards, look up/downstream for anything to be aware of (debris, canoes, boats, etc.) Identify emergency access points and aids in case of incident</i>



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Is the ground at the testing site uneven or slippery?				<p>Carry a mobile phone in case of incidents or emergencies</p> <p>Set up phone with what3words app for location reporting</p> <p>Stay away from river edge and steep banks</p> <p>Falling in: Stand up, remain calm, make your way to the edge</p>
Is the river level higher than normal?				<p>Review river level beforehand</p> <p>Postpone if river level or flow very high</p> <p>Look up/downstream to identify debris</p>
Animals				
Does your route go through, or the site itself in fields with livestock?				<p>Read Ramblers Association guidance: https://www.ramblers.org.uk/go-walking-hub/how-walk-through-field-animals</p>
Is there any danger of ticks or bites/stings?				<p>Wear appropriate clothing as a barrier</p> <p>Use insect repellent</p>
Safety				
Does someone know where you are going?				<p>Tell someone your location and expected return time</p> <p>Set up your phone to track your location</p>
Do you have a charged phone with emergency contact details stored on it?				<p>Check your phone is charged beforehand</p>
Are you aware that water-bourn microorganisms can cause illness?				<p>Avoid river water contact with face/mouth</p> <p>Wear gloves, use anti-bacterial gel</p> <p>Wash with soap in clean water ASAP</p>
Are you aware that phosphate reagent (disulphate) is hazardous if inhaled or gets in eyes or skin?				<p>Watch instructional videos on how to do sampling</p> <p>Avoid windy conditions</p> <p>Wear gloves</p>
Pollution				
Do you know how to safely dispose of rubbish and river samples containing reagents?				<p>Collect all waste and take home for disposal</p> <p>Store water samples containing reagents in a container for safe disposal at home by flushing down the toilet</p>

Other identified risks:	What will you do to mitigate these risks?

continue overleaf if necessary

