

West Wilts Fly Fishers Guild

RISK ASSESSMENT

Activity: Stillwater bank social fishing days such as Fullingbridge & Mill-Farm including BBQs if applicable.

Participants: Guild members age 18+ and juniors.

NB all juniors must be under the close supervision of a named Guild member.

The following Risk Assessment to be reviewed by the organiser / lead person prior to the activity taking place

Angling hazards:

a) **Deep water:**

Although anglers will not be entering the water to fish any deep water (i.e. over 1 metre deep) anglers should be warned of any deep water around the margins

b) **Hook injuries and cuts:**

Good practice is to wear eye-protection preferably wrap-around polaroid sun-glasses to protect the eyes from wayward hooks. A comprehensive first-aid kit must be carried by the event organiser inc side-cutters in case a barbed hook has been used.

c) **Melanoma – skin cancer:** is a very real possibility for anglers because of the length of time skin is exposed and especially if sunlight is reflected off the water surface. Any angler is advised to use factor50 sun-blocker on face, ears, neck, under the chin (against reflected sunlight), arms and backs of hands. A brimmed hat further protects the skin as well as helping vision into the water for fish spotting.

d) **Weills disease:**

A bacterial infection carried by rats in their urine (and probably cows too) which contaminates bankside vegetation and water. Early 'flu-like symptoms are noticed after 3 to 19 days. A doctor must be consulted immediately. Precautions:

- i) Do not let river water or hands come into contact with nose, eyes or mouth.
- ii) Cover any cuts or scratches with water-proof plasters before starting fishing.
- iii) Disinfect any cuts, scratches or abrasions that appear at the bankside.
- iv) Wash hands / use hand-gel or hold food in a wrapper before eating.
- v) Do not touch dead animals.
- vi) To discourage rats do not leave food waste at the bankside
- vii) At the end of the fishing session cleanse hands before heading for home.

a) **Lymes disease**

A bacterial infection transmitted to humans via the bite of a tick, usually associated with deer (deer are present in Pomeroy wood). Ticks vary in size from 1mm to 10mm. Flu-like symptoms usually 7 to 15 days after infection e.g. fever, chill, swollen lymph nodes, headache, fatigue, muscle ache, joint pain. Visually – a 'bulls-eye' rash fading to the centre not always at the bite suite. If left untreated the full effects can be devastating – arthritis, nerve damage and damage to the rhythm of the heart. Lymes disease can be misdiagnosed so vigilance is essential. Early diagnosis and antibiotics will prevent serious complications.

Action to be taken to avoid being infected:

i) Cover the skin – wear long trousers (Not shorts), socks, long-sleeved shirts with collars and long sleeves. Tuck trousers into boots. Light coloured clothes will help you see ticks.

ii) Use insect repellent containing DEET.

To remove ticks use fine tweezers as close to the skin as possible and pull steadily without twisting. Do not use heat or chemicals to remove them.

B-B-Qs :

The 'Chef of the day' to be responsible for cooking the food will:

- Be aware of the need for cold storage of raw ingredients and protection from flies etc.
- Ensure that raw meats and ready to eat foods (such as salads and bread rolls) are prepared and stored separately.
- Understand the importance of hand sanitizing prior to preparing foods.
- Ensure that meat products must be cooked thoroughly and NOT kept warm for long periods.

Hand-sanitizer will be available for members to use before they handle their own food for general hygiene and to protect against transmission of weill's disease.

Disposal of waste food – all food will be removed from the site at the end of the day, so that vermin are not encouraged.

Fire-hazard – the organiser will ensure that the BBQ has been fully extinguished at the end of the event and the site is cleared. All rubbish to be taken away to be disposed of according to local authority regulations.

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