**River Afan Walkover – Generic Risk Assessment**

**Activity:** Walkover surveys **Site:** Afan catchment, Port Talbot **Planned dates:** Summer 2019

**Description:** Walkover surveys of Afan River catchment to assess distribution of barriers

**Phone coverage:** 90% of the Afan River catchment has good phone coverage. Check phone coverage before going out – small areas near Goytre, Tonmawr and Cynonville have poor coverage. Lone working should not be undertaken in these areas.

**First aid arrangements:** We advise that a day trip first aid kit should be carried

**Emergency arrangements:** In the event of injury the nearest A&E department is at Neath Port Talbot Hospital, Baglan Way. Port Talbot. SA12 7BX

**Likelihood vs severity calculation:**

• Values of LESS THAN 20 = LOW RISK

• Values of 21 – 37 = MEDIUM RISK

• Values of 38 – 100 = HIGH RISK

• Values OVER 42 = UNACCEPTABLE RISK – DO NOT PROCEED

**Use of generic risk assessment:** This risk assessment is designed to highlight potential hazards to be aware of during walkover surveys, the risks involved, and control measures to reduce risks. However, the hazards and risks will vary between sites, and will depend of temporal factors such as weather. Volunteers should therefore undertake a dynamic risk assessment, both before leaving and on arrival on site, to assess whether it is safe to proceed.

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| **Hazard** | **Risk** | **Control Measure** | **Likelihood**  **(0-10)** | **Severity**  **(0-10)** | **Overall risk**  **(Low, Med. High)** |
| Uneven ground, slippery surfaces | Slips, trips and falls; sprains, bruises, lacerations etc. | Wear sturdy footwear, take care when walking on uneven ground, avoid very slippery/uneven ground. | 4 | 3 | 12 = L |
| Hot/cold/wet conditions | Exposure, hypothermia, hyperthermia, sun stroke, sunburn | Surveys to be undertaken in summer. Check weather forecast before leaving, wear appropriate clothing and sun protection to protect from elements. Cease fieldwork if feeling uncomfortably cold/hot. | 1 | 8 | 8 = L |
| **Hazard** | **Risk** | **Control Measure** | **Likelihood**  **(0-10)** | **Severity**  **(0-10)** | **Overall risk**  **(Low, Med. High)** |
| Deep water | Drowning | Check river levels before going out. Only conduct surveys during low flows. Never enter deep water. Avoid steep banks above deep water. | 2 | 10 | 20 = L |
| Conflict with members of the public | Assault | Only access public land. Do not trespass on private land. Remain calm and attempt to moderate situation. Leave the area if necessary. Call police if required | 1 | 5 | 5 = L |
| Travel to and from sites | Road traffic accidents | Obey highway code at all times, vehicles only to be driven by appropriately qualified drivers, vehicle checks before leaving, swap drivers if tired. | 2 | 8 | 16 = L |
| Working in remote areas | Getting lost; getting stuck | Make someone aware of area you are covering, tell them what time you will be back, carry mobile phone, check phone signal before going out, take OS map with you. | 3 | 7 | 21 = M |
| Contaminated water | Waterbourne diseases. Weils disease. Lyme’s disease | Use alcohol gel after contact with water. Avoid areas where there is evidence of rats present. Wash hands thoroughly before eating. Cover any cuts on hands. Wear full length trousers. Check body for ticks at the end of the day. Consult doctor if feeling unwell. | 2 | 6 | 16 = L |
| Farm/domestic animals | Attack by animals | Check fields for bulls before entering, do not approach unknown dogs. | 1 | 7 | 7 = L |
| Deep silt | Getting stuck/drowning | Do not walk on areas of deep silt. Use stick to check stability of substrate | 1 | 10 | 10 = L |
| Unstable banks | Bank collapse, falls, injury from loose rocks | Beware of loose rocks, avoid overhangs, keep distance from bank edge | 3 | 6 | 18 = L |

**Dynamic Risk Assessment**

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| **Additional hazard identified** | **Risk** | **Control measure** | **Likelihood**  **(0-10)** | **Severity**  **(0-10)** | **Overall risk**  **(Low, Med. High)** |
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