

BEDFORD ANGLING CLUB RISK ASSESSMENT

ACTIVITY	LOCATION	BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITY
CLUB BAILIFF (CB)	ALL BEDFORD ANGLING CLUB WATERS	BAILIFFING OF ALL CLUB WATERS

Risk No	Hazard identification	Cause	Person/s at risk	Impact	Likelihood	Risk Rating	Current Mitigation	Impact	Likelihood	Residual Risk Rating
1.	Person/s fishing without permission /without EA rod licence	Confrontation with unauthorised anglers	CBs	4	4	16	CBs receive training from the Club and patrols are often carried out in pairs. CBS carry mobile phones in order that they can request assistance from others including the police on 999 (Emergency – Crime in process) or 101 (Non-emergency) or the Environment Agency (EA). Bailiffs will exercise discretion when approaching persons suspected of fishing illegally. CBs are advised to be courteous and polite whilst also being aware of signs of potential aggression/conflict. They will not place themselves between the angler and the water. They will seek to maintain a safe distance and have an escape route planned when talking to anglers and asking them to leave. If they refuse to leave then they will report the matter to the relevant authorities. They will report any issues to the Committee ASAP.	3	3	9
2.	Poachers/Trappers	Confrontation with poachers/trappers	CBs	4	4	16	CBs receive training from the Club and patrols are often carried out in pairs. CBS carry mobile phones in order that they can request assistance from others including the police on 999 (Emergency – Crime in process) or 101 (Non-emergency) or the EA. They will seek to maintain a safe distance and gather any helpful evidence. They will report any issues to the Committee ASAP.	3	3	9
3.	Slips, trips and falls on and near to the river bank - Injury	Injury as a result of slips trips and falls as a result of bankside conditions / steepness / weather / checking banks / the waters	CBs	3	4	12	CBs should wear suitable clothing and footwear to minimise risk. CBs are expected to exercise reasonable care and due diligence on and near to the river bank. If a CB identifies a significant hazard during the course of a patrol then it should be reported to the Committee and they will advise on the way forward.	3	2	6
4.	River – Drowning/hyperthermia	Falling into the river which in some areas has significant depth directly off the bank	CBs	5	4	20	CBs should wear suitable clothing and footwear to minimise risk. CBs are expected to exercise reasonable care and due diligence on and near to the river bank. If a CB identifies a significant hazard during the course of a patrol then it should be reported to the Committee and they will advise on the way forward. If someone is seen to enter the water then the alarm is to be raised immediately and	5	2	10

							the CB should seek to assist the person in the water whilst not exposing themselves to undue risk.			
5.	Trees - Injury	Injury as a result of falling trees / branches due to weather	CBs	4	2	8	In the event of extreme weather consideration will be given as to whether the patrol should be re-scheduled and should only proceed if it is safe to do so.	4	1	4
6.	Fences - Injury	Barbed wire / electric fences causing injury.	CBs	2	2	4	CBs to stick to approved pathways and stiles/gates.	1	1	1
7.	Lightning and high winds- Injury	Injury as a result of being hit by lightning or winds causing falling branches or similar	CBs	5	2	10	In the event of extreme weather consideration will be given as to whether the patrol should be re-scheduled and should only proceed if it is safe to do so.	5	1	5
8.	Sunlight - Injury	Injury as a result of sunburn/sun stroke	CBs	2	4	8	CBs to wear sun cream/block along with suitable headwear. In the event of extreme weather consideration will be given as to whether the patrol should be re-scheduled and should only proceed if it is safe to do so.	1	2	2
9.	Ticks – Injury/illness	Illness as a result of Lyme’s disease	CBs	3	2	6	All CBs to check bodies for ticks immediately after patrols, removing any found appropriately. If anyone experiences/sees unexplained fever/rash at the bite site then they should see their doctor as soon as possible.	3	1	3
10.	Contaminated soil or water - Injury	Illness as a result of Weils disease (carried in urine of certain animals, especially rats	CBs	4	3	12	All CBs to wash hands as soon as possible after patrols and always before eating, drinking or smoking. Any existing wounds to be covered with waterproof plasters. Any unexplained fever to be explained to a doctor.	4	1	4
11.	Cattle – Injury	Injury as a result of cattle biting or being trampled by cows	CBs	3	3	9	CBs are to use recognised pathways and avoid contact/confrontation whenever possible.	3	1	3
12.	Dogs – Injury or harassment	Injury as a result of a dog bite or to the dog as a consequence of interaction with a CB	CBs	3	2	6	Any CB that is bitten or harassed by an unruly/unsupervised dog should inform the Committee and if necessary, the police.	3	2	6
13.	Swans - Injury	Injury caused by swans	CBs	2	2	4	Contact to be avoided with swans when nesting with young.	2	1	2
14.	PPE – Injury / illness	Injury as a result of inadequate PPE or incorrect use	CBs	3	3	9	CBs are to provide/wear their own suitable clothing, footwear and PPE.	2	2	4
15.	Harmful insects and plants - Injury	Injury as a result of bites/stings from insects or as a reaction to coming into contact with hazardous plants for example Giant Hogweed, Hemlock Water Dropwort, nettles and brambles.	CBs	3	2	6	Common sense should be used when in the proximity of poisonous/stinging plants. If an invasive species is identified then it should be reported. Wasp and bee nests are to be reported to the Committee who will deal with it appropriately. CBs should wear suitable clothing and footwear to minimise risk. CBs are expected to exercise reasonable care and due diligence on and near to the river bank.	3	1	3
16.	Manual handling - Injury	Injury as a result of lifting resulting from lifting /	CBs	3	3	9	Lifting advice to be provided by Club if particularly significant lifting to be done. CBs only to undertake work within their	3	1	3

		carrying objects to make area safe including but not limited to sprains / strains					capability. Barrows or other lifting equipment to be used, where appropriate and available, by competent persons.			
17.	Litter removal - Injury	Injuries from broken glass / sharp edges / drug paraphernalia. Human waste also poses a significant threat to health	CBs	3	3	9	Care is to be taken whilst lifting debris / litter and appropriate gloves are to be worn.	2	1	2
18.	Lone working - Injury	Serious illness or injury	CBs	4	3	12	No lone working is to be avoided where possible. Where lone working does occur CBs are to ensure others know of their plans and when they are due to return home. They should post on the Bailiff Whatsapp Group the venue, the time they go out and the time they conclude their patrol as a minimum.	1	1	1
19.	Anti-social behaviour of third parties - Injury	Injury or harassment from undesirable individuals	CBs	2	1	2	CBs to remain vigilant of suspicious people. Police to be called if a situation becomes heated. CBs will carry mobile phones to summon assistance if needed.	2	1	2
20.	Insurance – Loss for CBs or financial exposure of the Club	Inadequate / no insurance for work party duties and equipment	CBs	4	3	12	Club is affiliated to the Angling Trust and is the beneficiary of their insurance.	3	1	3
21.	Carrying out bailiff duties at night	Potential for accidents in remote locations or confrontations with challenging individuals	CBs	5	4	20	Night time bailiffing activities are normally only done as part of a pre-arranged activity and in the company of a number of other CBs/related individuals invited by the Committee. The lone working requirements are also applicable here if bailiffing after dark. CBs should wear suitable clothing/footwear and be in possession of appropriate torches/lighting to minimise risk. CBs are expected to exercise reasonable care and due diligence on and near to the river bank.	4	3	12

Assessed by	Position	Date	How CBs informed
Simon Campbell	Club Chair	29 April 2026	Website/During training

IMPORTANT NOTE: Any accidents or injuries that do occur should be reported to the Committee and followed up by e-mail with the following detail:

Date and time of incident

Name of person reporting the incident

Name(s) of person(s) subject to the accident / injury

Condition of the person

Action taken to deal with accident / injury

Circumstances surrounding the incident

Who else were in attendance at the time of the incident

Weather conditions at the time

Risk Matrix

	Likelihood				
	1	2	3	4	5
Impact	2	4	6	8	10
	3	6	9	12	15
	4	8	12	16	20
	5	10	15	20	25

Likelihood

1 = Very unlikely

2 = Unlikely

3 = Possible

4 = Quite likely

5 = Very likely

Impact

1 = Insignificant

2 = Minor

3 = Significant

4 = Serious

5 = Severe