

**Risks and measures to be taken to minimise injury – Cocker mouth Angling Association – River Cocker – 8th September 2015**

Risk	Measures to minimise
Cattle stampeding – risk higher when calves at foot or when bull is present	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Be aware</li> <li>• Walk fence perimeters avoiding walking through herds</li> <li>• Do not approach animals and avoid proximity to calves</li> </ul>
Drowning – Cocker is a dangerous deep river with strong flows.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Be aware – do not take for granted that areas safe to wade in the past remain safe.</li> <li>• Wade within own capability</li> <li>• Use a wading staff in deep water and life jacket</li> </ul>
Slip hazards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Be aware that banks are slippery and by nature access to the waters edge can be difficult. Approach with care and within personal capability</li> <li>• Styles and bridges are put in place to support access but cannot be subject to constant monitoring. Use them with care.</li> </ul>
Trip hazards from long grass, other vegetation and uneven banks. Particular hazard at night.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Anglers to take care</li> </ul>
<p>Specific trip hazards:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Throughout system there is fencing wire left from floods some covered in vegetation.</li> <li>• Lorton bridge - upstream - in water trip hazard – stakes (up to 12) in river bed where old river bank was retained – right bank ¼ mile up stream from access house in close proximity to stand alone slate gate post.</li> <li>• Lorton bridge - upstream - Open holes in field culvert close to river bank 30 yards from second 5 bar gate (including House back garden gate)</li> <li>• Stivey Lonning to Simonscales (old Turkey Farm) – left bank – woodland overgrown. Access considered dangerous and fishing is discouraged until a working party can create improvement (long term objective).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Anglers to be aware and take care</li> </ul>
Spinners – face / body injury	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Be aware that spinners caught on trees or vegetation on the opposite bank and pulled bank under tension can cause serious injury.</li> </ul>
Injury to members of the public from back casts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Anglers to exercise care in areas where members of the public may be present</li> </ul>
<b>Weil's disease – Serious disease in human beings that requires hospital treatment</b>	<p>Bacterial infection carried in the urine of rats which contaminates water and banks of lakes, rivers and ponds. Early symptoms are similar to flu and normally</p>

	<p>starts 3 to 19 days after exposure to contaminated water. Doctor should be consulted.</p> <p>Precautions to be observed are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Cover any cuts, sores or scratches with waterproof plasters or gloves</li><li>• Disinfect any wounds that occur at the waterside</li><li>• Wash hands or cover food with wrapper before you eat and do not put hands or equipment in your mouth after immersing in water</li><li>• Do not touch dead animals especially rats and do not leave food or rubbish on the bank side</li></ul>
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