

Risks and measures to be taken to minimise injury – Cockermouth Angling Association – River Cocker – 2nd July 2024

Risk	Measures to minimise
Cattle stampeding – risk higher when calves at foot or when bull is present	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be aware • Walk fence perimeters avoiding walking through herds • Do not approach animals and avoid proximity to calves
Drowning – Cocker is a dangerous deep river with strong flows.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be aware – do not take for granted that areas safe to wade in the past remain safe. • Wade within own capability • Use a wading staff in deep water and life jacket
Slip hazards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be aware that banks are slippery and by nature access to the waters edge can be difficult. Approach with care and within personal capability • Styles and bridges are put in place to support access but cannot be subject to constant monitoring. Use them with care.
Trip hazards from long grass, other vegetation and uneven banks. Particular hazard at night.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anglers to take care
<p>Specific trip hazards:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Throughout system there is fencing wire left from floods some covered in vegetation. • 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. • Lorton bridge - upstream - Open holes in field culvert close to river bank 30 yards from second 5 bar gate (including House back garden gate) • Beyond the feeder stream 2 fields up from Bridge House Lorton the area is extremely overgrown and largely inaccessible. Careful wading upstream with a staff offers better access. • Stivey Lonning to Simonscales (old Turkey Farm) – left bank – woodland overgrown. Access considered dangerous and fishing is discouraged. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anglers to be aware and take care

Spinners – face / body injury	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be aware that spinners caught on trees or vegetation on the opposite bank and pulled bank under tension can cause serious injury.
Injury to members of the public from back casts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anglers to exercise care in areas where members of the public may be present
Weil's disease – Serious disease in human beings that requires hospital treatment	<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 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"> ○ Cover any cuts, sores or scratches with waterproof plasters or gloves ○ Disinfect any wounds that occur at the waterside ○ Wash hands or cover food with wrapper before you eat and do not put hands or equipment in your mouth after immersing in water ○ Do not touch dead animals especially rats and do not leave food or rubbish on the bank side

If anglers note any safety or issues relating to repairs please notify the secretary: via e mail: administration@cockermouthanglingassociation.co.uk