

**Summary of River Derwent risk assessment - Risks and measures to be taken to minimise injury –
Cockermouth Angling Association – River Derwent – 28th April 2020**

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 – Derwent is a dangerous deep river with strong flows	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be aware – the river bed is ever changing - do not take for granted that areas safe to wade in the past remain safe. • Wade within own capability • Use a wading staff and life jacket in deep water
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 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 or below water line. ○ Holes have appeared between logs and bank in areas where major bank repairs have taken place - Barn dub / Lancaster flats / Woodbottom - repairs are in hand but EXTREME caution is required - see mitigation. ○ Giles Wood – due to major land slip during 2009 floods there is no access between Lancaster Flats and Cherry tree. Recommended route from Lancaster Flats is via field above Giles wood ○ White Reynolds – Bank subject to major land slide. No longer safely fishable. ○ Route to fishing at Stoddart pot is boulder strewn and represents a specific trip hazard - care is required. ○ Cunnah wath: Extreme care to be exercised when traversing stones along length of river side especially when wet. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anglers to be aware and apply judgement based on own capability. <p>In areas where banks have been repaired with logs and deep holes have appeared these represent a serious hazard. Anglers must show great diligence and if they doubt their ability to navigate these hazards or maintain concentration on those hazards they are advised not to fish these stretches until repairs have taken place.</p>
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

<p>Weil's disease – Serious disease in human beings that requires hospital treatment</p>	<p>Bacterial infection carried in the urine of rats which contaminates water and banks of lakes, rivers and ponds.</p> <p>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
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If anglers note any safety or issues relating to repairs please notify the secretary: via e mail:
administration@cockermouthanglingassociation.co.uk