

Summary of River Derwent risk assessment - Risks and measures to be taken to minimise injury – Cockermouth Angling Association – River Derwent – 21st April 2015

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 flood some covered in vegetation. ○ Holes can appear between logs and bank in areas where major bank repairs have taken place - Barn dub / Lancaster flats / Woodbottom ○ 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. ○ Iron Bridge: Major damage caused by 2009 flood. Some banks undercut. Fish with care. ○ 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
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