

# ESSEX FLY FISHING CLUB Risk Assessment for Leighs Lakes

RISK LEVEL		
LOW RISK	Low risks are largely acceptable. Where it is reasonable to do so efforts should be made to further reduce any opportunity of risk or hazard	
MEDIUM RISK	Medium risks should be tolerated for only short term and only if control measures are in place.	
HIGH RISK	High risk activities should cease. Further measures to mitigate any risk must be introduced.	

## PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

The following items will reduce personal risk of injury, members and guests should employ them when fishing or in the vicinity of other anglers.

HEAD	EYES	FEET	DROWNING
 Head protection must be worn	 Eye protection must be worn	 Foot protection must be worn	 Lifejacket

# RISK ASSESSMENT

Completed by Essex Fly Fishing Club

Venue: Leighs Lakes

Date: January 2024

GENERAL AREAS OF RISK	NOTES	ACTION to provide control measures and minimise risk.	L	M	H
<p>Risk: eyes/head injury, general personal health, hygiene and safety</p> <p>Risk: drowning and musculo-skeletal injury</p>	<p>At risk are club members, their guests and other invited individuals</p> <p>There are toilet and refreshment facilities by the Lodge Lake. Mobile phone signals can be variable.</p> <p>Personal angling equipment used in activities must be assessed for any hazards.</p> <p>For <b>minor</b> medical/health issues:</p> <p>For <b>serious</b> medical/health issues the <b>access to Dumney Lane and the fishery is from the farm gate at Leighs Lodge, on Felstead Road. CM3 1QJ</b></p> <p>OR what3words locator: <b>pastime.stewing.width</b></p> <p>OR GRID REF: <b>TL 707 191</b></p> <p><b>Nearest A&amp;E department is at Broomfield Hospital, Court Road, Broomfield, Chelmsford CM1 7ET</b></p>	<p>Any individual/group activity should wear <b>Sunglasses/glasses/eye protection and a hat when fishing or in the vicinity of other anglers.</b></p> <p>Any hazards will be identified with angling equipment.</p> <p>Antiseptic hand gel is to be available, members are encouraged to carry their own.</p> <p>A basic first aid kit should be available in the Lodge, members are encouraged to carry their own.</p> <p>In the event of an emergency, first call emergency services as required, give the address <b>AND entry locator</b>, and <b>meet them AT THE FELSTEAD ROAD</b> [if possible] entrance and direct the arriving emergency crew to the location of the injured/sick party.</p> <p>It is advised that members should save or store the phone numbers of Chairman, Honorary Secretary and Treasurer in case of any urgent need to contact them or if they require help.</p>	<p>L</p> <p>L</p> <p>L</p> <p>L</p>		

Hazard	Risk	Control			
Drowning	<b>HIGH WATER LEVEL</b> The Lakes are deep and shelve quickly. The bed is not to be considered completely firm outside of the immediate shallows and can be hazardous.	<b>Wading is discouraged, fishing is only allowed from bank or the jetty.</b>		<b>M</b>	
Entrapment/suffocation	<b>LOW WATER LEVEL</b> Mud means any area of exposed sediment that cannot be easily assessed as being safe, i.e. it is of an unknown depth or consistency. Wading in such conditions is discouraged.  a) Is there suitable safe access? b) Is the bank/material to be stood on or used sufficiently strong to hold the weight? d) Are there trip hazards present? e) consider the duration of the activity and the exposure to the water/mud. f) The safety equipment available e.g. life jackets, throwing lines, first aid kits.	Anglers & guests need to consider the following factors: a) Is there a real need to enter the water or mud? b) Is there a life preserver or throw-line nearby? c) Can assistance be sought from nearby farm staff or other agencies? d) If there is a real need to enter, is it safe to do so, taking account of water flow, temperature, underwater obstructions, depth of the mud?		<b>M</b>	
<b>USE OF ROWING BOATS</b>	Anglers should be seated at ALL TIMES as far as is practical, and are asked to use a recognised boat seat or thwart board. Members & guests are reminded that: <b><u>THEY ARE SOLELY RESPONSIBLE</u></b> for their own safety and should wear a tested safety aid when on or near the water; <b>and that <u>STANDING TO CAST or FISH FROM A BOAT IS CONSIDERED UNSAFE.</u></b>	Thwart boards are available for use from the Lodge.  <b>A life jacket or or similar floatation device should be worn when using a boat on either Lodge or Lavender Lake.</b>		<b>M</b>	

Weather	<p>Check the local weather forecast on the day and prepare accordingly.</p> <p>Pay a particular attention to wind direction and strength if boat use is planned.</p> <p>In the event of sudden deterioration row to the nearest bank and get ashore where safe to do so.</p>	Be vigilant for any potential thunderstorms. If in any doubt whatsoever, stop the activity immediately, put your rod down and head to the Lodge for shelter		<b>M</b>	
Steep, uneven banks, crossing stiles, fences & ditches	There is a risk of tripping, slipping, or falling	<p>Anglers are advised to take care especially when conditions are wet.</p> <p><b>SUITABLE FOOTWEAR is required according to conditions as assessed by individual members.</b></p>	<b>L</b>		
Electric cables / pylons	There may be overhead cables or pylons within the site boundary	Do not approach cast or fish within 75 metres of overhead power lines	<b>L</b>		
Other anglers & individuals	Hitting someone with your back (or any part of the) cast	Be aware of other people around you.	<b>L</b>		
Surrounding Countryside	Adjoining fields & paths may carry dogs or livestock and the wildlife in the immediate environment.	Do not approach any animals. Be aware of the potential for ANY pets or livestock on your back cast.	<b>L</b>		
Car Access	Vehicular access is convenient: however, the gateway has restricted visibility, abuts a busy road and is used by farm machinery and lorries.	Exercise extreme caution on narrow roads approaching the location.		<b>M</b>	
Car Parking	Parking will be in the fishery's dedicated areas by either Lodge or Lavender lake..	Any vehicle will be parked at the angler's risk on site.	<b>L</b>		
Electric cattle fences	Electrocution	Avoid touching fences and cross at designated areas.	<b>L</b>		
Farm Machinery	Injury or death	Give any farm machinery a wide berth	<b>L</b>		
Leptospirosis (Weil's disease)	Pathogen infection	Anglers are advised to cover any abrasions or cuts and wash hands thoroughly before eating/smoking.	<b>L</b>		

Lyme Disease, Ticks	Pathogen Infection	Cover exposed skin and apply suitable insect repellent. Check for any ticks on exposed skin and remove by recommended means or consult a doctor. Be aware of specific symptoms and seek medical advice if in doubt	<b>L</b>		
Hooks/Flies	Damage to eyes	Always wear a hat and glasses whilst on site.	<b>L</b>		
Covid 19	Viral Infection	Use common sense, follow current Government advice: check inoculation status, use masks, hand sanitiser and maintain separation as appropriate.	<b>L</b>		