

RISK ASSESSMENT
Deptford Creek

Updated: Paddy Hayes April 2024
Reviewed: Julia Kerrigan April 2024



| | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Entrance to CET gates | ///trying.mass.modes |
| Entrance to CET building | ///spoke.flows.bottom |
| Creek access entrance | ///deflection.loft.spider |
| In Creek North of H'penny hatch | ///cans.tall.pretty |
| In Creek South of H'penny hatch | ///slower.common.snacks |

| Type of Hazard | Impact - description | Likelihood (1-5) | Impact (1-5) | Risk Score (1-25) | Control Measures carried out by Creekside Education Trust | Remaining Risk (H/M/L) |
|---|---|------------------|--------------|-------------------|--|------------------------|
| Changeable river environment | All hazards outlined below | Variable | Variable | Variable | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Daily On-Day Risk Assessment (ODRA) carried out by session leader prior to entry to Creek Any disruptive debris removed from beach and path prior to entry Major obstacles on river walk route repositioned by CET staff prior to group visits Recording of any incidents on ODRA form and incident log. Future implications to be discussed and shared with CET team Dynamic risk assessing – session leader to continually assess the risk as the river walk progresses. Activities to be adapted at the leader's discretion. | Variable |
| Trips and falls from uneven river bed with rocks and mud | Cuts and bruises possible major injuries i.e. fractures, concussion | 3 | 4 | 12 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Waders and sticks provided for entry to the Creek. H&S briefing prior to Creek entry advises group members on how to use these appropriately to minimise risk of falling Warn users of danger during safety talk and give clear instructions about the local surface conditions Demonstrate best practice for walking with sticks in waders during safety talk Session leader to lead route through most suitable areas of the creek and to walk in front pointing out potential hazards Progress at the rate of slower members of the group and keep group together where possible Carry a first aid kit, mobile phone, and walkie talkie CET staff on site to help if anyone needs to leave the river early | M |

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|--|--|------------------|--------------|-------------------|--|------------------------|
| Flood water | Possible drowning, injury, distress | 1 | 5 | 5 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be aware of weather before walk, particularly rain • River level to be assessed before entry to creek • Monitor weather and modify tasks, suspend or cancel session when safety affected • If bad weather occurs while group is in Creek, session leader to assess severity and to cut short walk if necessary | L |
| Tide | Drowning, injury, distress | 1 | 5 | 5 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use Port of London tide table information • Session leader will be aware of the time of low tide • Staff are trained to recognise signs of tidal changes • Ensure group is in the vicinity of the beach/access point no later than 2 hours after low tide • Session leader knows the location of secondary escape routes and procedure and will lead group out of the creek via these in an emergency scenario | L |
| Specific areas of difficult terrain / fast water / deep mud banks | Falling Cuts and bruises Sprains Panic / shock Possible drowning | 3 | 5 | 15 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Primary school Low Tide Walks will not progress past the second meander • If progressing further - Ensure group avoids the fast-moving water and deep holes below weir (waterfall) and move in single file staying close to the river wall • Alert group to extra care needed when on algae-covered surfaces • Tell participants, during safety talk, to avoid the banks of mud and follow behind the leader | M |

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| Water-borne disease including Weil's disease | Serious illness or death | 1 | 5 | 5 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tell participants, during safety talk, to not put hands in mouths or on face during walk • Wash hands after activity, nail brushes and antibacterial soap available at all sinks in bathrooms • Plasters provided for any fresh cuts on hands or arms before entering creek • Carry a first aid kit • Any cuts sustained in the creek to be cleaned with a sterile wipe and covered with a plaster in the creek. Cuts to be well washed upon return to the centre and a new dressing/plaster applied. • If river water is ingested or a cut is sustained in the Creek, instruct participants and school staff to monitor health and seek medical care if necessary | L |
| Sharp / rusty / heavy objects in the creek | Cuts, grazes, punctures, sprains from lifting heavy objects | 2 | 4 | 8 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To protect feet, leaders and participants to wear waders/wellies as provided or deemed appropriate by CET • Instruct participants to look before touching any items in the creek. Avoid touching any items that look sharp, dangerous or heavy • Explain to participants that we will not be collecting items today. If they would like to pick up and observe something they should ask the group leader or CET volunteer if it is safe to do so first. • Session leader to carry a first aid kit | L |
| Swans | Injury such as a bite or impact from defensive behaviour | 1 | 2 | 2 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If there is a swan in the immediate area, tell group to keep a respectful distance and noise level so as not to frighten it. If swan seems defensive, be vigilant and stand between swan and group | L |

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|---------------------------|--|------------------|--------------|-------------------|---|------------------------|
| Weather: Wind | Injury from falling objects (e.g. tree branches) | 1 | 5 | 5 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assess weather on the morning of visit Monitor weather and modify tasks, suspend or cancel session when safety affected Suspend or cancel session when wind conditions cause safety to be compromised | L |
| Weather: Hot | Sunburn, heatstroke, dehydration | 2 | 2 | 4 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> On booking, provide Essential Information sheet to group advising on weather appropriate clothing and equipment Ensure access to shade and drinking water when on site Check weather forecast before session begins | L |
| Weather: Wet | Hypothermia | 1 | 4 | 4 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> On booking, provide information to group advising on weather appropriate clothing and equipment Centre can supply red raincoats and additional socks if required Visually check that all participants are wearing suitable clothing before activity Continually assess weather conditions and welfare of the group throughout the activity | L |
| Weather: Lightning | Electrocution | 1 | 5 | 5 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Check weather forecast as part of daily risk assessment Cancel activity if necessary Evacuate group from the river quickly and calmly if the need arises Communicate with centre to check forecast for likely length of storm | L |

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| Participant unfit to enter creek | Inability to cope with environment, danger to self and others | 1 | 4 | 4 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anyone who is under the influence of drugs or alcohol will not be allowed access to Creek • Anyone with emotional needs should make the group leader aware of any adjustments that may be necessary, at their own discretion • Anyone with a physical disability should make the group leader aware of any adjustments that might be necessary, at their own discretion • The group leader will decide if the situation allows for necessary adjustments and will advise on whether entering the river is sensible or not. Safety of individuals and the whole group is paramount in making this decision. • Participants to be made aware of risks through H&S briefing • Alternative activities and support provided for anyone unable to enter Creek, where practically possible | L |
| Collapse of walker in Creek | Possible drowning or exposure | 2 | 5 | 10 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First aider to assess and support casualty • If deemed necessary, call 999 ask for Fire Brigade to extract person from the river. Inform Fire Brigade of situation. Fire Brigade will decide appropriate response • Contact centre staff to support where necessary | M |
| Getting lost or separated from the group | Stranding and emotional distress | 1 | 2 | 2 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Session leader to wear a hi-viz vest • Leader to ensure group remains within sight and earshot at all times • Participants to work and stay together in small groups • There will always be a member of CET staff or a volunteer to assist any participants who need to leave the river early for any reason | L |
| Allergic reactions to Plants and insects | Rash, shock, anaphylaxis, distress | 2 | 5 | 10 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On booking a list of medical conditions is requested • Visiting staff are responsible for carrying and administering medication • Session leader to carry a first aid kit | M |

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Emergency Numbers

Ambulance 999

Lewisham A & E, Lewisham High Street, London SE13 6LH. Call **020 8333 3000, [///INSIST.PUNCH.PROVEN](#)**

| Likelihood of Occurrence | Severity of Consequences | | | | |
|---|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| | 1. Minor Injuries [No lost time] | 2. Significant Injury [up to 7 Days] | 3. Serious Injury [7 Day Injury] | 4. Major Injury | 5. Fatality |
| 1. Very unlikely [hasn't occurred before] | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 2 - Slight [rarely occurs] | 2 | 4 | 6 | 8 | 10 |
| 3 - Feasible [possible, but not common] | 3 | 6 | 9 | 12 | 15 |
| 4 - Likely [has before, will again] | 4 | 8 | 12 | 16 | 20 |
| 5 - Very Likely [occurs frequently] | 5 | 10 | 15 | 20 | 25 |
| Risk Rating: Likelihood * Severity | Minimal 1-2 | Low 3-9 | Medium 10-15 | High 16-20 | Extreme 25 |

Rating Risk

| | |
|--------------|---------------------|
| 25 | Extreme Risk |
| 16-20 | High Risk |
| 10-15 | Medium Risk |
| 3-9 | Low Risk |
| 1-2 | Minimal Risk |