

# Safety & Risk Assessment Statement

## Hayfield Angling Club

Hayfield Angling Club is an association of its members and is not a legal entity in its own right. The pooling of all the Club's member's subscriptions enables the elected officers of the club to provide benefits for all members. We hope this document assists members understand how they can help the Committee (and hence the Club) stay on top of the Club's safety management.

The Club (ie collectively the whole of the membership) rents or owns fishing rights and access on various waters on behalf of its members and where possible keeps those waters and access as hazard free as reasonably possible. It can be seen therefore that it is in the interest of all members for members to cooperate with the Club in helping minimise hazards and associated risk.

That doesn't mean that there isn't the potential for nasty accidents. This note is an attempt to outline simple measures Club members can employ to help keep such hazards to a minimum for the benefit of both themselves and all other members. Most Club members are experienced anglers and will be aware of most hazards and how to minimise the risks associated with those hazards. However members of the Club include younger anglers, people with restricted mobility, people with a degree of infirmity etc. and we can all help minimise the risks to these members.

The Club cannot afford to inspect every water every day and the simplest, and probably the most important, way that all members can help is to report to the Committee any issues they notice on waters when they are fishing. Such issues could include restricted or blocked access, excessive water on the access or banks, excessive growth around the pegs making the water edge ill defined, crumbling edges, unstable fishing platforms or missing planks, bad icing that may necessitate the water being closed for a period etc.

All members to ensure that they are dressed properly for the weather and take care to avoid areas of the banks that are slippery.

It is clearly advantageous that somebody knows where you will be fishing and what time you will be home. Carrying a mobile phone will enable you to summon assistance if you are alone and obviously fishing with a friend makes life a lot simpler.

In Case of an Emergency - EMERGENCY NUMBERS PRINTED IN THE MEMBERSHIP BOOK.

Keeping the bank tidy will ensure that bottles and cans do not form a hazard for other anglers or livestock that may also be grazing in the fields around. Please ensure that your rubbish is not contributing to this completely unnecessary hazard.

***All members, officials and visiting anglers should make themselves aware of the risks they face in the surroundings they find themselves and carry out their own risk assessment which generally amounts to common sense and take the appropriate action to ensure their own safety and that of others. However, it is a requirement that all anglers read, understand and accept this Safety & Risk Assessment Statement.***

## **General Risks Associated With Angling**

### **Entry/Exit**

All waters locked at all times. Any issues please refer to hand book/call Emergency numbers/Committee Members.

### **Paths**

Only use obvious paths along the bank. Do not place anything on the path which may cause a trip hazard.

### **Banks**

Beware of undercuts in banks especially near deep water.

### **Wading**

Take particular care when wading in deep or fast water and on rocky bottoms. Use a wading staff and wading belt at all times.

### **Power Lines**

Beware of fishing under power lines and remember electricity can arc over a considerable distance. You are ideally earthed in water to conduct electricity. Remember that graphite is an excellent conductor of electricity.

### **Lightning**

Again you are ideally earthed when in water and if using a graphite rod, you have a good lightning conductor. If you are on a boat you and your rod may well be the highest point around and a prime target for a strike.

### **Casting**

Always show consideration to other users on all waters/river bank by avoiding contacting anyone with your back-cast as you can easily contact them whilst casting. It is recommended that protective glasses are worn when fishing to protect your eyes from hooks and flies.

### **Hooks/Flies**

Hooks by their design are sharp and easily penetrate the skin. Their use brings them into contact with germs etc, that can be injurious to health.

Caution should be used when handling hooks, tying on or removing hooks. Rusty hooks should be avoided at all times.

### **Weighted**

Weighted flies cause unpredictable movement of cast when casting. Extreme caution should be exercised.

### **Flies**

When casting weighted flies do ensure they do not come in contact with you, your fellow anglers or the public.

### **Trees**

Fishing under trees can be unsafe in windy conditions. beware of falling branches.

### **Animals**

Do note that bulls can be troublesome! As can cows with calves. Approach the canal or stream with caution.

### **Weils Disease**

This is transmitted in rat's urine. Never put wet lines in your mouth or any other items of tackle that has been in the water. Wear waterproof plaster on any cuts or abrasions. There may also be a risk in some waters from treated sewage effluent.

### **Falling in the water**

Falling in the water may cause drowning. It is recommended that a buoyancy aid is worn at all times when on, in or near water.

### **Weather Conditions**

The weather may change suddenly and cause unforeseen dangerous water conditions. Be constantly aware of changing weather and its consequences.

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