

Watchtree Nature Reserve

Great Orton, Carlisle, CA5 6NL

Location: Pond Wood

Title : Pond Dipping	Date of Assessment : 16/03/2020	Risk Assessor : Caroline Salkeld
Risk Assessment Reference : EDU 017	People involved in making this assessment : Caroline Salkeld, Ryan Dobson	
Task/ Process : Pond study activities with groups of children and adults	People at Risk : Employees, Members of the Public, Volunteers, New and Expectant Mothers, Children & Young Persons, Visitors	

Hazard : Infection Infection caused by contact with pond water.
Control Measures:
1. Exposed cuts must be covered.
2. First Aid kit carried by group during session.
3. All individuals in the session should be instructed to wash their hands regularly and particularly before eating.
4. Hand wash facilities provided for all individuals involved in the session.
5. Minimal direct contact with the water - using nets and trays to 'dip' and specimen pots to examine pond creatures.

Hazard : Public or Visitor Access Pond Dipping activities take place during opening hours therefore there are likely to be members of the public around during pond dipping activities.
Control Measures:
1. Only individuals who are booked into the session should take part in pond dipping activities.
2. Groups should work in ratios no greater than 8 children to 1 instructor.
3. Instructors are responsible for the whereabouts and well-being of all individuals in their care.
4. In each session there should be a minimum of 2 instructors.
5. Each instructor to carry a mobile phone and have contact numbers for other instructors in the group and the Watchtree Visitors Centre.

Hazard : Uneven, Wet or Slippery Floors Slips, trips or falls by the pond side causing injury or drowning
Control Measures:
1. Study of collection trays and creatures should take place away from the waters edge.
2. Prior to session all parents should be requested to provide suitable outdoor clothing including wellingtons or boots.
3. Participants should use purpose built pond dipping platform to 'dip', they should not 'dip' from any other area around the pond.
4. Buoyancy aids available in the immediate vicinity of the pond dipping platform in case of emergency.

5. First Aid kit carried by group during session.
6. Each instructor to carry a mobile phone and have contact numbers for other instructors in the group and the Watchtree Visitors Centre.
7. Encourage those that are pond dipping to steady themselves on the pond dipping platform before they begin the task. Encourage participants to have one knee placed on the platform as they use the fishing nets to dip into the water.
8. Remind participants to take care when pond dipping, especially mention to take care they don't lean too far over the waters edge.
9. Verbal warnings about the dangers of the pond water at the start of the activity. Children to be supervised at all times and should not run around the pond dipping platform.

Hazard : Water A new pond dipping platform was constructed in Jan 2020. The structure is made of recycled plastic and it allows for participants to pond dip while others observe animals in the white trays. Remind those moving around the pond dipping platform to take care while carrying out this task.

Control Measures:

1. Study of collection trays and creatures should take place away from the waters edge.
2. Prior to session all parents should be requested to provide suitable outdoor clothing including wellingtons or boots
3. Participants should use purpose built pond dipping platform to 'dip', they should not 'dip' from any other area around the pond
4. Buoyancy aids available in the immediate vicinity of the pond dipping platform in case of emergency
5. First Aid kit carried by group during session
6. Each instructor to carry a mobile phone and ave contact numbers for other instructors in the group and the Watchtree Visitors Centre

Hazard : Injury from equipment There will be access to nets, white viewing trays, pots and magnifying jars.

Control Measures:

1. Instructions given to participants of how to use the nets and other equipment safely.
2. Good visibility of all participants around the pond dipping platform. The will also have good visibility of the instructor.
3. Participants that are pond dipping will be spaced well apart around the pond dipping platform.
4. Ensure that participants are well balanced with at least one knee or two if they prefer on the platform.

Documents Associated with this Risk Assessment:	
Review Date : 25/04/2022	Reviewer : Caroline Salkeld