

**Watchtree Nature Reserve**

Great Orton, Carlisle, CA5 6NL

**Location: Pond Wood**

<b>Title :</b> Pond Dipping	<b>Date of Assessment :</b> 27/08/2015	<b>Risk Assessor :</b> Caroline Salkeld
<b>Risk Assessment Reference :</b> EDU 015	<b>People involved in making this assessment :</b> Caroline Salkeld, Charlotte Gray, Ryan Dobson	
<b>Task/ Process :</b> Pond study activities with groups of children and adults	<b>People at Risk :</b> Employees, Members of the Public, Volunteers, New and Expectant Mothers, Children & Young Persons, Visitors	

<b>Hazard : Infection</b> Infection where members have open cuts and wounds and or putting hands to mouth during or after the pond dipping activity.
<b>Control Measures:</b>
1. Verbal warning before the pond dipping activity begins.
2. Cover any open wounds or cuts before the activity and wear disposable gloves.
3. Pond is not used if blue or green algae is present.
4. Where NAEM (new and expectant mothers) are involved in the activity they should be individually risk assessed by the organisation responsible (school group).
5. All participants checked to see if any open wounds or sores present. Exposed cuts must be covered or the participant observes others and doesn't access the pond water.
6. Qualified first aider and ample supply of first aid kit to be present at every stage of the activity
7. All individuals in the session should be instructed to wash their hands regularly and particularly before eating.
8. Hand wash facilities provided for all individuals involved in the session.
9. Minimal direct contact with the water - using nets and trays to 'dip' and specimen pots to examine pond creatures

<b>Hazard : Public or Visitor Access</b> Pond Dipping activities take place during opening hours therefore there are likely to be members of the public around during pond dipping activities.
<b>Control Measures:</b>
1. Only individuals from the organisation responsible (e.g. school groups) should take part in pond dipping activities.
2. Instructors are responsible for the whereabouts and well-being of all individuals in their care
3. Each instructor to carry a mobile phone and have contact numbers for other instructors in the group and the Watchtree Visitors Centre
4. All instructors to be aware of public access to activity areas
5. All activity participants must be in sight of an instructor at all times
6. Maximum ratio 8:1 for all activities

<b>Hazard : Uneven, Wet or Slippery Floors</b> Slips, trips or falls caused by uneven, wet or slippery floors
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**Control Measures:**

1. Maximum 8:1 ratio for all activities
2. Study of collection trays and creatures should take place away from the waters edge
3. Prior to session all parents should be requested to provide suitable outdoor clothing including wellingtons or boots by the responsible organisation
4. Potentially slippery flooring around the pond dipping site.
5. Qualified first aider and ample supply of first aid kit to be present at every stage of the activity
6. Each instructor to carry a mobile phone and have contact numbers for other instructors in the group and the Watchtree Visitors Centre
7. Where NAEM (new and expectant mothers) are involved in the activity they should be individually risk assessed by the organisation responsible (school group).
8. Clear pre-pond dipping instructions are given before the activity and close supervision while the task is being carried out.
9. Children will be spread out around the new pond dipping platform. They will all face inwards and the instructor will have a clear view of the group.
10. The pond dipping area will be thoroughly checked for loose edging and deep water prior to pond dipping activity.

**Hazard : Water** Accidents by the waters edge leading to drowning

**Control Measures:**

1. 4:1 ratio's when in close proximity to the waters edge
2. study of collection trays and creatures should take place away from the waters edge
3. Prior to session all parents should be requested to provide suitable outdoor clothing including wellingtons or boots by the responsible organisation.
4. Potentially slippery wooden areas by the waters edge have been cover in a mesh to increase grip
5. Participants should use purpose built pond dipping platform to 'dip', they should not 'dip' from any other area around the pond
6. Buoyancy aids available in the immediate vicinity of the pond dipping platform in case of emergency
7. Qualified first aider and ample supply of first aid kit to be present at every stage of the activity
8. Each instructor to carry a mobile phone and have contact numbers for other instructors in the group and the Watchtree Visitors Centre
9. Where NAEM (new and expectant mothers) are involved in the activity they should be individually risk assessed by the organisation responsible (school group).

**Hazard : Inclement Weather** Extremes in weather causing discomfort/health risk for activity participants

**Control Measures:**

1. Prior to session all parents should be requested to provide suitable outdoor clothing including wellingtons or boots by the responsible organisation.
2. Consideration to be given to high temperatures and exposure to sun by the responsible organisation.

**Hazard : Work equipment** Knocks from handles to head or other body parts when dipping and in close proximity to others.

**Control Measures:**

1. Limit the number of people using equipment, e.g. nets, to avoid collision and accidents.
2. The new pond dipping platform will allow for around 15 - 20 participants to work on the platform but not all participants will have nets or pond viewers. They will take the activity in turns and work with a partner.
3. Warn participants to be aware who is around them and the equipment that is being used.

**Documents Associated with this Risk Assessment:****Review Date :** 04/10/2021**Reviewer :** Ryan Dobson