

Statement

Lymm Angling Club Safety & Risk Assessment Statement:

It is the duty of Lymm Angling Club (LAC) to advise its members, officials, and all visiting anglers with the principals of safety and risk assessment. 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 dynamic risk assessment. This usually amounts to common sense. All persons must then take the appropriate action to ensure their own safety and that of others. However, it is a requirement that all members read, understand, and accept this Safety & Risk Assessment Statement.

All Angling activities are undertaken at the members/visitors own risk.

All activities associated with planned work parties, nettings and emergency repair work are undertaken at the members own risk.

General Risks

1. Paths:

Only use obvious paths along the bank. Always be aware of cyclists, horse riders and walkers. Do not place anything on the path which may cause a trip hazard. Be aware of tree roots, brambles etc. which may cause trip hazards. Not all paths on LAC waters are maintained, take care when using all paths.

2. Wading:

Take particular care when wading in deep or fast water and on rocky bottoms. Always use a wading staff and wading belt. A floatation device or buoyancy aid is also recommended but is at each members discretion. It is strongly advised that all members/visitors familiarise themselves with wading any pools to be fished/worked on in good daylight conditions before attempting to fish during the hours of darkness. No wading is allowed on work parties/nettings/emergency repairs during the hours of darkness without a Club Committee Member's authorisation. Ensure that the footwear you choose is adequate for the terrain.



3. Power Lines:

Do not fish/work under or near power lines, electricity can arc over considerable distances. You are ideally earthed in water to conduct electricity. Carbon fibre & graphite rods are also an excellent conductor of electricity as is a fly line coated in water. Power lines which cross the river are marked on the banks with a post and sign both upstream and downstream of the power line. Power lines away from the riverbank are unmarked.

4. Trees:

Fishing/working under trees can be unsafe in windy conditions. Beware of falling branches.

5. Stiles, Bridges and Fences:

Always take care when negotiating stiles and crossing bridges. Fences and walls should not be climbed this causes damage and presents further unnecessary hazards. Before negotiating a stile or bridge a visual inspection should be made to ensure safety for use.

6. Electric Fences:

Electric fences which are used for the control of animals and can periodically discharge high voltages. Contact with the wires may result in a painful electric shock, or worse.

7. Lightning:

Again, you are ideally earthed when in water and if using a graphite or carbon rod, you have a good lightning conductor. In case of lightning, it is recommended that you lay your rod flat on the ground and take shelter (not under trees). A car is a good place to shelter.

8. Casting:

Always show consideration to other users on the riverbank by avoiding contacting anyone with your back-cast. It is recommended that protective glasses are worn when fishing/working to protect your eyes.



9. 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 always avoided. Weighted flies can cause unpredictable movement of cast when casting. Extreme caution should be exercised. When casting all flies ensure they do not come into contact with you, your fellow anglers or the public, paying particular attention to persons using bank side paths.

10. Animals:

Treat all livestock with respect. Note that cattle can be troublesome! Avoid contact where possible and approach the water/river with caution

11. Weil's 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. Use anti-bacterial hand-wash and avoid handling food items until you have washed thoroughly. Symptoms of Weil's disease include, Chills, nausea & vomiting, sudden headaches, loss of appetite and muscle pain (particularly in the calves and lower back). If you have these symptoms after fishing, seek urgent medical attention.

12. Falling in the water:

Falling in the water may cause drowning. It is recommended that a buoyancy aid is always worn when on, in or near water. Wearing these devices is at each members/visitor's discretion and a matter considered at their own risk.

13. Weather Conditions:

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



14. Vehicles:

Vehicles must be always driven in a courteous manner, particularly on leaving public roads to access Club parking facilities. When parking in Club designated parking areas, please do so with due regard for other users and do not block access at any time.

When using 'public parking' please ensure that due respect and courtesy is given to residents, other road users, those requiring access and emergency services.

15. Use of boats/punts:

The use of boats/punts, except those provided by the club is not allowed.

All members/visitors must always wear a correctly functional life/buoyancy vest when stepping onto the boat/punt, whilst in the boat/punt and stepping out of the boat/punt.

All users of boats/punts must read and understand, the LAC specific Boat/Punt Risk Assessment before use.

16. Safeguarding and risks specific to Junior Members:

Lymm Angling Club expects that all Junior Anglers under the age of 16 years are always supervised by an adult member. It is recommended that the adult member is a parent or legal guardian, family member or close friend. It is recommended, that if an adult member needs to leave the club water for a short period for any reason, that the Junior Member leaves with you also. We advise not to leave the Junior Members with any other Adult Members for the duration of you leaving the water.

Junior members over 15 years of age are allowed to fish Club waters with parental consent. Parents take full responsibility of the Junior members Health, Safety & Welfare ensuring they are clear on any specific club water rules, and they are adhered too.

It is recommended that Junior Anglers do not wade above knee height and Junior members should wear eye protection for their safety.

Junior Anglers under 16 years of age may not fish Club waters during hours of darkness (Sunset to Sunrise) unless accompanied by an adult member who can supervise their Health, Safety & Welfare.



17. Drugs and Alcohol:

Non prescribed behavioural changing substances, including alcohol are banned on club waters. Anyone affected by such substances whether or not consumed or administered on club managed sites, will be deemed as being in breach of this rule and will result in a lifetime ban.

18. Firearms and Weapons:

The carriage of firearms or weapons of any kind is banned on club waters (except where permission has been granted by the committee)

19. Fires and Barbecues:

The lighting of fires or barbecues is not permitted on club waters. Smokers must ensure cigarettes are fully extinguished and stumps discarded properly.

20. Waste and Disposal:

All anglers must ensure they take any waste rubbish home with them (including cigarette stumps). Rubbish should be bagged immediately and left in such way that will cause no harm to anybody or wildlife.

Anglers must ensure their toilet requirements are catered for in a way that does not cause offence or hygiene hazard to any other person/property. Bailiffs will ask what provisions have been made to comply with this rule, if provisions are not considered adequate, members/visitors will be asked to leave the water. All foul waste must be bagged and removed by the member/visitor, failure to comply will result in a lifetime ban.



Note

It is requested that if you see anyone around club waters acting in such a way, that may cause harm or danger to themselves or others, that this is reported immediately to a club bailiff or official. This information will be taken in confidence.

It is requested that if you become aware of a situation or an object that may cause harm or danger to yourself or anybody else, that this is reported immediately to a club bailiff or official.

Lymm Angling Club is committed to the Health, Safety and Welfare of all Members/Junior Members and Visitors. We thank you for continuously working proactively with us, to maintain a safe place for us all to enjoy fishing our club waters.

**Thankyou
Lymm Angling Club**

