

## **Risk Assessment for school visits to the river Pang at Plum Manger**

**All action points in bold type are to be addressed by staff on the day of each visit.**

**SITE NAME:** Plum Manger

**GRID REF:** SU590720

**OWNER:** Annie Fitzwilliam, Fishers Copse, Tutts Clump, Berkshire

**TEL. NO:** 0118 971 2584

**ASSESSOR:** John Bishop Trustee 07803923842

**NEAREST HOSPITAL:** Royal Berkshire, Craven Road, Reading (0118 987 5111),  
West Berkshire Community Hospital, Thatcham (01635 273300)

**SITE ACCESS FOR EMERGENCY VEHICLES:** via Mariners Lane and into Folly Bridge Field

| <b>HAZARD</b>  | <b>RISK LEVEL</b><br><b>Low - high</b> | <b>ACTION</b>  |
|--|--|--|
| Dangerous trees/branches on route to river and by riffle and meander site. Poplars, Willows & Hazel close to main section of river   | low                                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Low branches which pose hazard to be trimmed back as deemed necessary during checks. Liaise with landowner if appropriate</b></li> </ul>   |
| Silty area by outflow of fishing lake. Risk of getting stuck   | Medium                                 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Adequate supervision and control of children</b></li> <li>• Children told to avoid these areas</li> <li>• Primarily this site used for meander study and chemical testing so students don't enter the river</li> </ul>   |
| Ground conditions - often uneven, muddy, wet   | low                                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Adequate supervision and control of children</b></li> <li>• Advise teachers on appropriate footwear</li> </ul>   |
| Weather conditions – especially relevant given lack of shelter at the site   | low                                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>First Aid kit and blanket to be brought along on each visit</b></li> <li>• Provide schools with recommendations for suitable clothing</li> </ul>   |
| River work hazards – including risk posed by high banks and uneven ground, falling into water, disease, speed and depth of water and risk of drowning. Boundaries pointed out. | medium                                 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>warn children of wire along fences, trip hazards in water, steep banks and uneven ground, advise work where banks are gentle</b></li> <li>• <b>adequate adult/child ratio (min. 1:8 for those in water)</b></li> <li>• <b>health &amp; safety information to be sent to all schools</b></li> <li>• <b>health &amp; safety talk to all groups</b></li> <li>• <b>cuts covered and use of antiseptic wipes</b></li> <li>• <b>site to be visited before each visit ensure water is not too deep for a visit and to remove obstacles from the river</b></li> <li>• <b>first aid kit, mobile phone, rescue device and blanket to be carried on each visit</b></li> </ul> |
| Wildlife hazards – snakes, fungi etc   | low                                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>warn children not to approach</b></li> </ul>   |

**14/09/19 John Bishop**