Ross-on-Wye Angling Club - Bailliffing Risk Assessment

Hazard	Person(s) at risk	Potential Consequences	Existing Control Measures	Likelihood (L,M or H)	Severity (L,M or H)	Overall Risk Rating	Recommendations to further control risk
Person / persons fishing without permission or conducting fish theft	ROWAC Bailiff	Confrontation with unauthorised anglers / poachers	Experienced bailiff must exercise own disgression when approaching persons suspected of fishing illegally or poaching. Bailiff to carry mobile phone so assistance can be summoned. Ring police on 101 for non-emergencies or 999 if a crime is in progress.	Low	Medium	Medium	Be polite and courteous at all times and recognise signs of potential conflict. If the response is favourable bailiff may, at their discretion, approach the persons with the intention of asking them to leave. Should the response seem confrontational, maintain distance, request the person(s) leave. Report to committee ASAP. Do not get involved in arguement. At all times maintain a safe distance and have an escape route planned
Bad weather & floods	ROWAC Bailiff	Slips, trips and falls on river bank	Wear appropriate clothing and footwear for conditions. Take extra care on steep, wet muddy banks,especially following a flood. Personal assessment of conditions.	Medium	High	Medium	Avoid the water edge. Consider wearing 'crampons' over own footwear. Suspend bailiffing duties if conditions are particularly poor.
Carrying out bailiffing duties in darkness	ROWAC Bailiff	Potential for accidents in remote locations	Bailiff to carry mobile phone so assistance can be summoned.	Medium	High	Medium	Bailiff to notify another person where they are going and likely return time. Carry a torch if their duties are likely to extend into hours of darkness.
Working Alone	ROWAC Bailiff	Medical emergencies or accidents in potentially remote areas	Bailiff to carry mobile phone so assistance can be summoned.	Medium	High	Medium	Preferably patrol in pairs. Bailiff to notify another person where they are going and likely return time.
Weil's disease (leptospirosis) - spread in urine of rats, mice, cows, and dogs	ROWAC Bailiff	Serious illness - potentially life threatening in extreme cases.	Wash hands after contact with river water and cover all cuts.	Low	High	Medium	Good hygiene. Recommend carrying medicated wipes or antiseptic spray to clean cuts sustained on bank.
Animals (horses, cattle, dogs)	ROWAC Bailiff	Being trampled or bitten	Use recognised pathways. Avoid contact / confrontation whenever possible.	Low	Medium	Low	Make personal assessment of risk and if in doubt, avoid dogs and livestock.
Noxious plants - e.g Giant Hogweed has toxic sap. Stinging Nettles. Brambles	ROWAC Bailiff	Severe blistering / stings	Avoid contact. Report to sightings of Giant Hogweed to ROWAC committee. Safety bulletin issued to raise awareness of Giant Hogweed.	Low	Medium	Low	Regular bank maintenance by ROWAC work parties
Reviewed by Adrian Williams on behalf of the ROWAC Committee - October 2025							Revision: 2