

# **Risk Assessment**

## **This is a generic risk assessment for all lakes under the control of The Carp Society**

Whilst not exhaustive, this risk assessment covers in detail the risks associated with fishing within the boundaries of The CARP SOCIETY lakes Horseshoe, Farriers, Little Farriers and Ashmead.

We always do our utmost to ensure our staff and the anglers that visit the site can do so in a safe and minimal risk environment. That being said there are certain aspects of both the fisheries and fishing in general that are hard to reasonably control.

All members, officials, visitors and anglers should make themselves aware of the risks they face in the surroundings. ALL are expected to take reasonable precautions and continually risk assess the location of your equipment, bivvy, vehicle and the environment in which you are fishing, use common sense and take the appropriate action and controls to ensure their own safety and that of others.

### **Lakes / Around Water:**

Without wanting to point out the blatantly obvious, fishing will always involve a degree of danger, due to the essential of being near water. Although we don't control any fast-flowing water, still waters can still pose significant risks, particularly in the winter months when the water can be extremely cold. Can be deceptive in depth. What looks to be 2ft deep can be 6ft! Some areas will have deep pools.

### **Banks:**

Beware of undercuts in banks and take particular care when banks are wet and slippery. Take extra care when walking to and from the banks paying attention to holes and trip hazards, Foliage that is overgrown or in bloom. Not all paths' waters are maintained, take care when using all paths.

### **Falling in the Water:**

Falling in the water may cause drowning. When fishing from the banks and designated swims take time to familiarize yourself with your immediate surroundings paying attention to the edges so avoiding trips and overstepping.

### **Danger of fishing hooks:**

Always take care when tying up fishing line and hooks, especially when you have your rod rested against your bivvy or broolly, if your rod was to slip whilst you were holding the hook, it would almost certainly end up in your finger. You should also always take time to check behind you before you cast, to ensure no person or animal for that matter, is behind you. Always make sure the area is clear before casting.

**Getting Line Stuck in a Tree or Weed:**

During the course of most angler's lives they will have got their line stuck in a tree, due to an over-cast, or attached to an unforeseen underwater obstacle. Most of the time it will free itself without too much effort but there are always occasions when that isn't the case and you end up having to "Pull for a break" which is basically trying to snap the line, with the hope of retrieving your tackle. There is no 100% way of describing how to do this safely but the following points can help. When pulling against line stuck in a tree, always keep your rod-tip as low as possible. If the line breaks and the fishing lead comes flying back at you, it will probably follow the line of your fishing line and if that is kept low it will help it hit the ground and not you. Always pull with your head looking away from the area where your line is stuck. If you get stuck to an underwater obstacle, always try your best to keep the rod tip under the water, this will greatly reduce the risk of the fishing lead flying back at you when the line breaks. This is even more important when you get stuck close to the bank where you are standing. As above you should also turn away to protect your face.

**Power Lines:**

Beware of walking or fishing under power lines and remember that electricity can travel over considerable distances. You are ideally earthed when in the water and graphite (rod?) is an excellent conductor.

**Weather conditions:**

The Carp Society reserves the right to close our lakes to anglers in certain adverse weather conditions.

The weather may change suddenly and cause unforeseen dangerous conditions. You are expected to take reasonable precautions and continually risk assess the location of your equipment, bivvy, vehicle, and the environment in which you are fishing (for example, do not fish under trees in windy conditions). Be constantly aware of changing weather and its consequences.

**Exposure to Sun:**

In sunny conditions it is recommended that you wear a hat and sunglasses, keep your skin always covered. Use a high factor sunscreen/lotion and apply regularly.

**Winter & Hypothermia:**

Ensure that suitable clothing is worn at all times, take plenty of hot drinks and food. Do not enter the water at any time, Check the weather forecast.

**Trees:**

Fishing under trees can be unsafe especially in windy conditions. Beware of falling branches. Do not climb trees or attempt to cut/remove branches. REPORT any fallen trees/branches or if you feel an area needs to be addressed by reporting to a bailiff or emailing [info@thecarpsociety.com](mailto:info@thecarpsociety.com) or [sales@thecarpsociety.com](mailto:sales@thecarpsociety.com).

**Animals:**

Rats, Swans, Wasps, Snakes, Foxes may be encountered. It is best not to approach any animals and avoid at all costs, If you do come into contact with any animal do not panic back away and seek alternative route.

Birds: Swans are rarely aggressive but are best left alone. Especially when using a boat on open water.

**Insects:**

To avoid contact with insects use and apply appropriate insect lotions, anaphylactic shock is a real risk if you are known to suffer from anaphylactic shock, please ensure you are suitably prepared and let the bailiff team know.

**Diseases:**

Wiel's disease is transmitted in Rat and Cow urine. Never put wet line or equipment in your mouth. Wash your hands or use antiseptic wipes before eating or drinking. Use waterproof plasters on cuts or abrasions. Undesirable bacteria may be present in animal droppings and the lake water. Keep all food items including cutlery and cooking equipment covered and bags or containers.

**Night Fishing:**

Hazards at night are increased. Set your bivvy up in daylight hours so as to be aware of your surroundings. Carry a torch and headlamp. Keep walking around in the dark to a minimum. Do not run along banks. Do not leave rods unattended. Let family & friends know where you are fishing and for how long. Carry a mobile phone.

**Horseplay:**

Do not at any point act irresponsibly or engage in horse play.

**Members of the public & other members:**

The Carp Society venues should only be accessible to Carp Society members. Please report any unauthorised visitor to bailiffs or the Carp Society office. Be courteous at all times to fellow anglers and report any incidents to the bailiff team or via the THE CARP SOCIETY Fisheries website

**Vehicles:**

Vehicles must be always driven in a courteous manner and do not exceed the 5mph speed limit onsite and only using the designated parking areas. Car parking is at the owner's risk.

**Traffic:**

Do not exceed the 5mph speed limit when using the roads and only park in designated areas.

**Roadways and paths:**

Pay attention when using the roadways or paths these can be subject to slippery conditions when wet and have potholes appear that may have not been there previously.

**Boat Usage:**

THE CARP SOCIETY has a rule book and set requirements for each lake regarding the use of boats. Please refer to individual lake rules. If the use of boats are permissible you are reminded to use the appropriate equipment provided. (please refer to individual lake rules)

**General Care and precautions:**

Avoid excessive use of alcohol, do not use recreational drugs.

Take a small first aid kit with you.

Pay attention to sharp objects hooks, knives, bivvy pegs, bank sticks. Fish to your abilities and take care when casting and do not take unnecessary risks.

Always let someone know you are heading out giving them your location expected time home, ensure you have a fully charged mobile telephone. Be prepared for your trip considering the outlined items above.

Whilst THE CARP SOCIETY Fisheries Limited takes the health & safety of its members seriously it is all our responsibility to act responsible whilst fishing on THE CARP SOCIETY waters.

If you see anything that gives you cause for concern, please report this to a bailiff or to the club. via [www.thecarpsociety.com](http://www.thecarpsociety.com) or email [sales@thecarpsociety.com](mailto:sales@thecarpsociety.com) or [info@thecarpsociety.com](mailto:info@thecarpsociety.com)

**The Carp Society accepts no liability for injury or loss or damage to anglers or their personal belongings.**

**Emergency contact numbers**

Miles Carter – Fishery Manager 07787 576727

Sabrina Widdows – Office Manager 07741 312514

Horseshoe: Karl Goldsmith - Horseshoe head bailiff 07814 258897

Farriers: Rob Saunders – Farriers head bailiff 07768 100228

Ashmead: Please call Miles or Sabrina

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**RISK ASSESSMENT CARRIED OUT BY**

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Originally 01/01/2022, Last checked and updated: 01/06/2024