



# GENERIC RISK ASSESSMENT USING PLANT & WORKING ON OR FROM TOWPATH

<b>Canal:</b> Grand Union Canal, Wendover Arm	<b>Site address:</b> Little Tring, Hertfordshire, HP23 4NR		
<b>Work Location:</b> Towpath or similar footpaths with public access	<b>Operation:</b> Using plant & working on or from towpath or similar footpaths with public access including access to canal bed.	<b>RA Sheet No:</b> WATRA 20	<b>Date Task Starts:</b> To be confirmed

**Likelihood (L):**

1	EU	Extremely Unlikely
2	U	Unlikely
3	L	Likely
4	VL	Very Likely
5	AC	Almost Certain

**Severity (S):**

1	FAC	First Aid Required
2	LTI	Lost time injury
3	>3d	Time off work more than 3 days
4	MI	Major Injury
5	F	Fatal

**Risk Value = LxS**

**Risk Level** High / Medium / Low

AC	5	10	15	20	25
VL	4	8	12	16	20
L	3	6	9	12	15
UL	2	4	6	8	10
EU	1	2	3	4	5
	FAC	LTI	>3D	MI	F

Risk assessments WATRA 1, WATRA 5 & WATRA 6 are also relevant to plant operation.  
WATRA 13 Working with Concrete & WATRA 14 Working at Height are also relevant.  
Other WAT risk assessments apply to other work/tasks undertaken on the towpath.

No.	TASK	HAZARD	WHO IS EXPOSED AND HOW	RISK LEVEL			CONTROL MEASURES	NEW RISK LEVEL			FURTHER ACTION
				L	S	RV/RL		L	S	RV/RL	
1	Driving/operating plant on towpath/public footpaths	Collision with pedestrian/cyclist/pushchair	General public walking/running/cycling along towpath/footpath	2	5	10	Banksmen front & rear equipped with whistles. Identify passing places to pass pushchairs etc. Stop if pedestrian/cyclist approaches. Manoeuvre into passing place if required. Avoid using at weekends when more pedestrians/cyclists about.	1	5	5	Survey route to identify suitable passing places.
2		Collision with volunteer	Volunteers nearby on the towpath/footpath	3	5	15	All volunteers wear hi-vis jacket or tabard. Volunteers keep away from moving plant.	1	5	5	

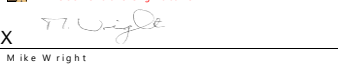
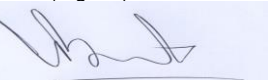
No.	TASK	HAZARD	WHO IS EXPOSED AND HOW	RISK LEVEL			CONTROL MEASURES	NEW RISK LEVEL			FURTHER ACTION
				L	S	RV/RL		L	S	RV/RL	
3		Plant falls into dry canal	Plant operator/driver	3	5	15	Trained/competent operators/drivers. If fitted operator/driver wears seat belt. Minimise reversing by turning & unloading at wider sections of towpath only.	1	5	5	Survey route to identify suitable turning and unloading locations.
4		Plant overturns on uneven ground	Plant operator/driver	4	5	20	Trained/competent operators/drivers. If fitted operator/driver wears seat belt. Install gate in wooden fence at cart track to allow access to towpath, level ground using hardcore material.	1	5	5	Install gate in wooden fence at cart track. Level ground using hardcore.
5		Plant strikes pedestrian/cyclist whilst working.	General public walking/running/cycling along towpath	3	5	15	Working/unloading at wider sections of towpath only. Temporary fencing/barrier around area whilst machine working/unloading/loading. Banksman if required to stop work if pedestrian/cyclist approaches.	1	5	5	Survey route to identify suitable working/unloading locations.
6		Plant strikes volunteer whilst working.	Volunteers	3	5	15	All volunteers wear hi-vis jacket or tabard. Volunteers keep away from working plant. Working/unloading at wider sections of towpath only.	1	5	5	Survey route to identify suitable working/unloading locations.
7	Lifting materials on/off towpath/public footpaths with excavator on canal bed.	Pedestrian/cyclist struck by materials/lifting excavator	General public walking/running/cycling along towpath	2	5	10	Loading/unloading at wider sections of towpath only. Temporary fencing/barrier around area whilst excavator unloading/loading. Banksman if required to stop work if pedestrian/cyclist approaches. Reverse excavator bucket (face shovel style) to make loading/unloading easier.	1	5	5	Survey route to identify suitable loading/unloading location.

No.	TASK	HAZARD	WHO IS EXPOSED AND HOW	RISK LEVEL			CONTROL MEASURES	NEW RISK LEVEL			FURTHER ACTION
				L	S	RV/RL		L	S	RV/RL	
8		Volunteer struck by materials/lifting excavator	Volunteers nearby on the towpath	3	5	15	All volunteers wear hard hat & hi-vis jacket or tabard. Loading/unloading at wider sections of towpath only. Reverse excavator bucket (face shovel style) to make loading/unloading easier.	1	5	5	Survey route to identify suitable loading/unloading location.
9		Excavator in canal bed overturns towards towpath	Excavator operator/driver. Anyone else standing nearby	2	5	10	Use 8 tonne excavator minimum. ROPS cab. Operator wears seatbelt. Trained competent operators. Lift with dozer blade down. Select loading/unloading point that is as close to towpath as possible, subject to sufficient towpath width (see risks 6 & 7). Temporary fencing/barrier on towpath around area whilst excavator unloading/loading.	1	5	5	Survey route to identify suitable loading/unloading location.
10	Manual loading/unloading of materials	Hand injuries	Volunteers	5	3	15	All volunteers wear suitable work gloves. All volunteers to take care to avoid finger traps.	2	3	6	
11		Back injuries	Volunteers	4	3	12	Reverse excavator bucket & raise bucket to convenient height to make loading/unloading easier. All volunteers to take care to adopt good manual handling techniques.	2	3	6	
12	Volunteers descending into/exiting from dry canal	Volunteer falls	Volunteers	5	5	25	Only access/egress canal bed using concreted area at Whitehouses. Use ladders tied off at top to pins driven in above Bentomat.	1	5	5	
13	Lowering/raising tools & materials into/from canal	Material falls striking volunteer	Volunteers	3	5	15	Volunteers wear hard hats, safety boots & gloves. Slide blocks down chute above soft bed (not concrete). Slide buckets of mortar down using ropes. Stabilise with ropes & slings as required.	1	5	5	

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				L	S	RV/RL		L	S	RV/RL	
14		Material/tools strikes pedestrian/cyclist	General public walking/running /cycling along towpath	2	3	6	Raising lowering of tools & material at wider sections of towpath only. Temporary fencing/barrier around area.	1	3	3	Survey Whitehouses site to identify suitable raising/lowering location(s).
15		Volunteer falls into canal whilst lowering material into canal.	Volunteers	2	5	10	Ensure sufficient people to lower the load safely. Ensure load is not excessive by trial lift before lowering. Wear gloves. Minimum 2 people to lift/lower material/tools.	1	5	5	
16	Mixing mortar/concrete with mixer on towpath.	Pedestrian/cyclist becomes entangled with mixer	General public walking/running /cycling along towpath	2	4	8	Mixer used at wider sections of towpath only. Temporary fencing/barrier around area whilst mixer working.	1	4	4	Survey route to identify suitable working location.
17		Pedestrian/cyclist gets cement/sand in eyes.	General public walking/running /cycling along towpath	3	2	6	Mixer used at wider sections of towpath only. Temporary fencing/barrier around area whilst mixer working. Only load mixer when no pedestrians/cyclists are nearby. Point mouth of mixer away from pedestrians/cyclists when they are passing.	1	2	2	Survey route to identify suitable working location.

<b>CAN THE JOB PROCEED?</b> (Tick one box)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Safe using existing control measures
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Safe using existing + additional control measures
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Not safe to proceed

<b>ARE THERE ANY LONG TERM CONTROLS?</b>	<b>Carry out a dynamic Risk Assessment when you arrive on site and adapt the Risk Assessment to suit any changes that may have occurred, particularly weather conditions.</b>
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<b>ASSESSED BY:</b>	Name: Mike Wright H & S Coordinator	Name (signed) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Recoverable Signature X  Mike Wright	Date: 6/2/2022
<b>AUTHORISED BY:</b>	Name: Chris Bent Operations Director	Name (Signed) <small>light signature</small> 	Date: 6/2/2022

## Guidance on Completing a Risk assessment

Part of managing health and safety on site is controlling the risks in the work place. You need to think about what may cause harm to people and decide whether you are taking reasonable steps to prevent that harm. This is known as a risk assessment and is something that you are required to carry out by law.

A risk assessment is not about creating huge amounts of paperwork, but rather about identifying sensible measures to control the risks in your workplace.

Think about how accidents and ill health could happen and concentrate on real risks – those that are most likely and which will cause the most harm.

## Definitions

- **Hazard:** Anything that may cause harm, such as chemicals, electricity, working at height or near water, uneven ground, plant and tools.
- **Risk:** The chance, high or low, that somebody could be harmed by these and other hazards, together with an indication of how serious the harm could be

## Steps to writing a Risk assessment

For any task or activity to be undertaken;

- ◇ Identify the hazards. Think about the activities, processes or substances that could injure your volunteers or harm their health.
- ◇ Decide who might be harmed and how. For each hazard you need to be clear who might be harmed, volunteers and others not carrying out the task.
- ◇ Evaluate the risks and decide on controls to reduce the risk. How likely is the hazard to cause harm and what would the severity be. What can be done to reduce the risk, you do not need to eliminate the hazard.
- ◇ Record your significant findings. Make a record of the hazards, how people may be harmed and what you have in place to control the risks. Any record should be simple and focused and communicated to everyone involved in the task.
- ◇ Review your assessment and update if necessary. If there have been any significant changes or improvements need to be made. Consult your volunteers. Learn from any accidents or near misses.

## Using this Example Risk Assessment

Firstly the heading boxes need to be completed with the details of your site.

The intention of the author is to try to identify all possible hazards for this activity. Not all the items above will apply to your site. You need to consider the hazards that are present on your site and adapt your site specific risk assessment accordingly. You may also need to review the possible control measures and adapt your risk assessment.

The list is not exhaustive. If you identify any additional hazards, risk assess them following the procedure above. Please let the IWA Restoration Hub know of any additional hazards so that this example risk assessment can be updated.