

Please note that this risk assessment applies to the activity at the date of writing and under the prevailing weather conditions at this time. Please discuss any possible changes to this assessment with Leeson staff before undertaking this activity.

Activity: The River Piddle Study at Piddletrenthide First School, Backwater Lane Puddletown, Turners Puddle Ford and West Mills,

PLEASE NOTE THERE IS **NO VEHICLE ACCESS** ONTO THE COMMON AT WEST MILLS BEYOND THE CATTLE GRID. PLEASE PARK ALL VEHICLES IN THE PUBLIC CAR PARK. ANY VEHICLES PARKED OVER THE CATTLE GRID ARE AT RISK OF BEING DAMAGED BY HORSES.

Risk Assessment Completed By: Louise Harding and Mike Gould

Date: January 2019

Reviewed: next review January 2020

See General Off-Site Risk Assessment

1	Traffic – Puddletown and West Mills Car Parking area	Passing traffic at Puddletown and School Run Traffic at West Mills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brief pupils to be aware of traffic, allocate a staff member to watch for traffic at Puddletown Be aware of local residents complaining about students in the river. Explain we do have agreed access and give them Leeson House office number if they wish to discuss further.
2	Horses at West Mills	There is a large number of horses kept on the common who can, at times, prove to be a real nuisance and hazard to groups walking on the track and working beside the river	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff to carry dipping nets to help ward off the horses if they approach too closely, keep group calm, single file with staff to supervise and reassure pupils if required, avoid giving the horses any food and try to keep them away from the river bank by closing the gate if appropriate
3	Equipment		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brief pupils on how to carry and use equipment safely, especially tapes and nets
4	River Banks	The river banks are undercut in some places at all sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Check the banks immediately on arrival and mark out safe areas for pupils to work using a throwline if necessary.
5	Water / currents etc, especially at Turners Puddle and West Mills	Deeper channels in places – upstream of footbridge at Turners Puddle and on the Northern bank at West Mills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is important that all staff leading work at these sites are familiar with them and know the characteristics of the river fully. Throwline to be carried at all times.
6	Weir at West Mills	Strong undercurrents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brief pupils to avoid approaching the weir when in the river, close supervision. Throwline to be carried at all times.
7	River bed at all sites	Sharp stones – flints and possible	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All pupils working in the river MUST have some form of

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		rubbish	footwear on.
8	Exposure	Little shelter from wind, rain or sun at all sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check weather forecast and pupils clothing beforehand, carry extra clothing in case of unintentional immersion
9	Hygiene	Dirty water on hands whilst eating	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If at all possible try to plan the day so that lunch is taken before the pupils touch the water, carry hygienic wipes if required and note that public toilets are available in Puddletown adjacent to the village Recreational Field
	Emergency	<p>See General Off-Site Risk Assessment Emergency Procedures Landline and first aid available at Piddletrenthide First School Good mobile signal at Puddletown Limited mobile signal at Turners Puddle – nearest landline in Bere Regis Good signal at West Mills Police/Ambulance/Coastguard – 999 or 112 Leeson House – 01929 422126</p>	
	THROWLINE	<p>ALL GROUPS WORKING ON THE RIVER PIDDLE MUST CARRY A THROWLINE, AND STAFF MUST BE BRIEFED ON HOW TO USE IT IN AN EMERGENCY SITUATION</p>	