

Shooting Kirby Lakes Risk Assessment

Activity or Hazard	Who may be harmed and how.	Severity	Frequency	Measures taken	Further Actions.
Deep water				Ensure all members are aware of the safe route to the hides or shooting position. Give adequate safety briefing before each shoot. Accompany new members to their hide	
Soft mud and silt	All participants Risk of drowning	Severe	High	Avoid wading whenever possible.	Consider using marker posts to show safe access routes
	Risk of getting stuck in silt. Risk of drowning following sinking into soft mud.	Severe	High	See above	Mark areas known to be dangerous. Leave picking up to dogs, enlist the help of pickers up to retrieve shot birds
Accessing shooting positions	All participants Risk of slips trips and falls leading to broken limbs Risk of injury from barbed wire	Moderate	Moderate	Position gates and stiles on perimeter fence. Keep tracks and paths strimmed and clear of obstructions	Accompany new members to their position and ensure they are aware of any hazards

Operating in the dark	<p>All Participants</p> <p>Risk of trips and falls leading to broken limbs.</p> <p>Risk of getting lost, disoriented or walking into dangerous areas</p>	Moderate	Moderate	<p>Ensure all members are aware of their surroundings in the light before shooting.</p> <p>Ensure members carry a torch.</p> <p>Accompany anyone who is not confident to operate after dark.</p>	Keep tracks and paths clear and well marked.
Adverse weather	<p>All Participants.</p> <p>Risk of injury from Lightning strike.</p> <p>Risk of injury from falling trees in high winds.</p> <p>Risk of immersion in cold water leading to hypothermia or drowning.</p> <p>Risk of hypothermia or drowning after falling through ice.</p> <p>Risk of injury, disorientation or deaths in foggy weather.</p>	Severe	Moderate	<p>Assess and monitor weather conditions before and during shoots.</p> <p>Ensure adequate clothing and footwear is used in cold conditions.</p> <p>Carry a set of dry clothing in your car in case of falling in.</p> <p>Carry a warm drink and some food on cold days.</p>	<p>Consider cancelling shooting if weather forecasts show conditions will be extreme.</p> <p>Avoid accessing the hides if the lake is frozen or partially frozen.</p> <p>Abort shooting if electrical storms or dense fog occurs during a shoot.</p> <p>Do not allow anyone to walk on a frozen lake including dogs.</p>

Using Boats

All Participants
Risk of falling in leading to drowning or hypothermia after immersion in cold water.

Moderate Moderate

Ensure adequate life jackets are available.
Ensure boats are fully servicable and have oars as well as engines in case of failure.
Tie boats up securely to prevent them drifting off and leaving people stranded.

Avoid boats where possible.
Don't use boats in adverse weather conditions.

Use of Shotguns

All participants
Risk of severe injury or death following low or dangerous shots.
Risk of injury or death due to barrels being blocked with mud or snow.
Risk of injury or death from mixed cartridges being used.

Severe High

Ensure all guns are in good condition and suitable for the cartridges they are to fire, ie, no more than half choke for steel shot.
Ensure all members are aware of their surroundings and know where shots must not be taken.
Avoid low shooting especially over water or ice where ricochets may occur.
Cease shooting if people or dogs are retrieving shot birds.
Check barrels for obstructions regularly and keep barrels up out of mud and snow.
Keep different calibre cartridges separate.

Make sure members are briefed on safety before shooting.
Provide training days prior to the season for new members.
Use a whistle to start and stop shooting so everyone knows when it is safe to shoot.
Accompany new members and juniors when shooting.
Use poles in hides to indicate safe arcs of fire.

Dogs	<p>All Participants</p> <p>Risk of injury to people and livestock from dog bites leading to infections.</p> <p>Risk of traffic accidents due to dogs running onto roads.</p> <p>Risk of illness to dogs following long periods of exposure to cold water.</p>	Moderate	Moderate	<p>Keep dogs under control using leas if necessary.</p> <p>Carry towels and food for dogs to make them comfortable following shooting.</p>	<p>Limit the dogs exposure to cold water in severe conditions by altering hide positions to prevent shot birds falling on ice or in icy water.</p>
Public footpaths and roads	<p>The public</p> <p>Risk of injury or death from shots fired towards footpaths or roads.</p>	High	High	<p>Initial safety briefing should highlight the areas that special care must be given to.</p> <p>Position hides so that shots cannot be fired towards areas that the public may be unseen in.</p>	<p>Liase with the fishing syndicate to ensure no-one is fishing when shooting takes place.</p> <p>Consider using signs indicating that shooting is taking place.</p> <p>Inform the police of shoot dates to prevent call outs by the public if they hear shooting.</p>