

SOCO Water risk assessment for work in warm or hot zone

Light Conditions Darkness = 4 Darkness <2hrs = 3 Darkness <4hrs = 2 Daylight = 1	Notes:	Score:	Score:	Score:
Notes: For night work always consider the use of FRS or SAR teams to provide safety cover				
Weather Conditions Current Rain = 4 Recent Rain = 3 Predicted Rain = 2 Dry = 1	Notes:	Score:	Score:	Score:
Notes: Rain makes river banks slippery and increases the chances of accidental immersion! Rainfall also contributes to the river flow and increasing river flows should be expected after rains!				
Downstream Hazards Known <500m = 4 Known 500 – 1000m = 3 Uncertain = 2 Known >1000m = 1	Notes:	Score:	Score:	Score:
Notes: Some downstream hazards such as principal weirs are shown on OS Maps, but smaller weirs, major strainers and rapids are often omitted.				
Communications Not Available = 4 Problematic = 3 Acceptable = 2 Perfect = 1	Notes:	Score:	Score:	Score:
Notes: Do you have comms to summon help if needed				
Access to site for backup From the water only = 4 Very limited = 3 Limited = 2 Good = 1	Notes:	Score:	Score:	Score:
Notes: If there is no access for emergency response, consider deploying safety teams prior to work in warm or hot zone				

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Water Levels High Rising = 4 High Stable = 3 Normal Rising = 2 Normal Stable/Falling = 1	Notes:	Score:	Score:	Score:
Notes: Rising water is particularly problematic on slack rivers where overbank flooding could occur cutting off searchers, High Volume flows will be more powerful and can move away from the normal centreline into trees and fences creating strainer hazards Consult the Environmental Agency Website for River gauging information				
Terrain Deep Sided = 4 Difficult incl. undercut = 3 Moderate = 2 Easy = 1	Notes:	Score:	Score:	Score:
Notes: This is an Assessment of how easy or difficult it is to search the river bank due to the terrain. Slope is a significant factor but so are underfoot conditions and the presence of undercuts which increase the risk				
Bank Conditions Completely Obscured = 4 Partly Clear = 3 Partly Obscured = 2 Clear = 1	Notes:	Score:	Score:	Score:
Notes: This is an Assessment of the vegetation and visibility of the water's edge. The principal concern is lack of good rescue stances for the downstream back-up.				
Water Conditions Grade 4 + = 4 Grade 3 = 3 Grade 2 = 2 Grade 1 = 1	Notes:	Score:	Score:	Score:
Notes: Churning, turbulent high grade water is no place for SOCO				
Water Speed >2m/s = 4 >1m/s - <2m/s = 3 >0.5m/s - <1m/s = 2 <0.5m/s = 1	Notes:	Score:	Score:	Score:
Notes: It would be difficult to do at low speed but at 2m/s the backup would have to run down the bank to keep up. This can be assessed easily by a walk test – throw a stick/log and walk alongside. If it can't be tracked this is a 4				

Overall Threat

ASSESSMENT High Threat => 20 Moderate Threat =14-20 Low Threat =<14	Notes:	Score:	Score:	Score:
Notes Low Threat – Usually OK for deployment, but monitor situation. Moderate Threat – Consider use of specialist staff and support High Threat – Consider alternative strategies for work				

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