

Weed management of Letcombe Brook at East Hanney.

Method statement and Risk Assessment.

1. Introduction

This document describes the method and precautions to be followed when carrying out selective weed removal in Letcombe brook between Dandridges Mill and Lower Mill at East Hanney.

2. Equipment required

- Chest high waders or wet suit
- Life jackets
- Security ropes
- Weed hooks
- Digital Camera
- Crayfish identification chart
- Padlock
- Thermometer
- Bucket

3. Precautions to be taken

The sluice gate at Dandridges Mill must not be adjusted whilst the work is carried out. Contact the owner and fit a padlock to the weir adjusting mechanism.

The work must not be carried out immediately after or during heavy rainfall

If heavy rain starts work shall stop.

Any person working on the stream must

- a) Wear chest high waders or wet suit.
- b) Wear a lifejacket, properly fitted and adjusted.
- c) Be attached to a security rope with the other end held by a person upstream on the bank

The work must not be carried out if the water temperature is below 10°C.

The river worker must be changed at least every hour to prevent excessive fatigue or hyperthermia.

All workers must have had an anti Tetanus injection.

A first aider must be available nearby.

4. Method

One person (Leader) shall check all safety precautions are implemented.

Each team shall consist of 4 persons, 2 in the river and 2 on the bank. They should work closely so they can give assistance to each other as required.

Before work commences record the water level at the Gauge Board by the Royal British Legion.

Commence at Lower Mill and work upstream.

Remove rununculus from the brook using weed hooks. Aim to clear the brook 2/3 of the width clear of rununculus, with remainder mainly in the central sections. Produce a gentle meandering route where practical. Place removed weed on the bank and allow a few days for invertebrates to return to the brook.

Remove sparganium and flag iris where encroaching on the main stream and replant in the margins where possible.

Cut back overhanging branches such that they are clear of the water.

If any crayfish are found, photograph and return them to the brook. If they can be identified as Signal Crayfish, collect in a bucket and inform the EA Conservation officer.

Record any evidence of water voles.

When work is completed record the water level at the gauge board and remove the padlock.

A few days later collect up the weed and compost.

5. Risk Assessment

Hazard	Who is at risk	Precautions	Further action required?	Actions
Drowning	River workers	All stream workers to wear lifejackets All workers	None	leader to check

		<p>attached to security rope</p> <p>No work when flow rates are high</p> <p>Upstream sluice locked</p>		
Hyperthermia	River workers	<p>All stream workers to wear waders or wet suits.</p> <p>Stream workers changed every hour</p> <p>No work if water temperature below 10 °C</p>	None	Leader to check
Infection	River workers	All workers to have valid anti tetanus injection	None	Each worker to check themselves