

Water Rangers - Health and Safety Guidance

About us

Northumbrian Water is committed to protecting and improving the environment and as part of this we want to encourage the community to let us know about pollution to watercourses. This will allow us to attend to and resolve pollution incidents more quickly.

Water Rangers is a new scheme which has been set up to allow us to work with volunteers from local communities to protect and improve water quality in the most vulnerable watercourses.

About Water Rangers

The Water Rangers Scheme involves volunteers patrolling predetermined 20-30 minute 'public access' routes within our known vulnerable areas on a weekly or fortnightly basis. These areas are highlighted in the 'Are You In?' guide to Rangers and on our website.

While they are on their walk, Water Rangers will report any potential pollution incidents to Northumbrian Water so that the issue can be resolved as quickly as possible. You can find out more about the scheme at www.northumbrianwater.co.uk/water-rangers.

Purpose of our health and safety policy

Northumbrian Water is also committed to the Health and Safety of our Water Ranger volunteers. We carry out risk assessments, which we act upon to lower risk. This includes a risk assessment of:

- the areas which Water Rangers Patrol
- the roles carried out by Water Ranger volunteers
- the organisation's activities after Water Rangers have reported their findings

We will provide volunteers with any information and training they need to remain safe whilst carrying out their volunteering tasks.

Water Rangers are expected to remember their duty of care towards the people around them, and not act in a way that might endanger those around them.

Health and safety, accidents and risk assessment

The safety of our volunteers is of utmost importance to us. We will regularly update you on our Health and Safety guidance and give training on how to perform Water Ranger tasks safely.

As you will be walking around public rights of way, footpaths and bridle paths (all public access routes with which you would be able to freely walk along on an everyday basis) we require you to maintain a duty of care to yourself, each other and those who may be affected by your activities. We will only ever ask you to observe watercourses from the walking route you have been provided and to not divert away from this public path. We will also provide dynamic risk assessment training, as well as basic field Health and Safety training, which will detail that you should not patrol when the route is unsafe in any way. As well as this document we have a risk assessment drawn up for you to follow and if you become a Water Ranger you will be required to sign both when you attend your training.

Health and Safety code of conduct

We have produced a code of conduct that we ask all scheme volunteers to sign up to, by doing so Water Rangers are committing to working within our health and safety guidelines, risk assessments and good practice.

Water Ranger code of conduct:

- follow safety procedures in your risk assessment putting your safety and that of others first.
- only ever observe watercourses from the walking route you have been provided and do not divert away from this public walking path. In addition for road safety rules.
- please wear appropriate clothing and footwear for your walk. Remember to be flexible and prepared for the changing weather conditions that might occur
- respect and maintain a duty of care to yourself, each other and those who may be affected by your activities; this also includes the environment and it's eco systems.
- follow the countryside code at all times.
- if you come across any problems refer to your volunteer handbook or contact your coordinator .

This is the Health and Safety guidance of the Northumbrian Water - Water Rangers scheme.

Signature _____
Print _____
Position _____ Water Ranger _____
Ranger Area _____