

Guidance for the Risk Assessment Procedure (RAP) for Water Safety

Community Greenspace

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1 Introduction

This guidance provides a working practice for officers involved with the risk assessment of public spaces in relation to water. It is linked to the Water Safety Policy adopted by the Environment Committee in January 2016 and replaces the previous risk assessment procedure guidance. The Policy provides background and rationale including information on water rescue incidents and should be used as a reference alongside this procedure.

The aim of the Water Safety Policy is to ensure that effective, efficient and sustainable water safety arrangements are applied consistently across Council land. It aims to reduce accidental and deliberate entry to the water. The RAP is identified as the appropriate means of ensuring the appropriate response in the context of the wider site character and its amenity value.

The risk assessment procedure (RAP) is not just the responsibility of the designated officer who carries out the risk assessment of sites and identifies the most appropriate water safety provision. It also involves all those who have roles with inspecting sites or public rescue equipment (PRE), organising events on sites, redesigning public spaces or replacing and maintaining infrastructure. Table 1 shows the main responsibilities for officers in relation to water safety.

1.1 Risk assessment responsibility and frequency

The Community Greenspace (CG) Coordinators (infrastructure) risks assess Greenspace sites. Within countryside areas the public are expected to be more aware of risk and accept responsibility for their own safety to a greater extent. Water safety signage (WSS) will now be installed at countryside sites. No public rescue equipment (PRE) will be provided on the basis that there are no known and recurring water safety incidents and that PRE cannot be regularly inspected and maintained.

RAP inspections take place every four years unless:

- An incident occurs – RAP to be carried out for the appropriate site within 5 working days of a report being received
- Site conditions change – RAP to be carried out for the appropriate site within 1 month of the recorded change

2 Quick guide to officer responsibilities in relation to water safety.

In all cases this only applies where water occurs within the public space involved.

Work priority	Application of procedure	Lead Section
Provision of off-site information to raise the level of public education regarding water safety.	Ensure website, media, leaflets, talks and other events provide useful and appropriate information to the public. In particular the Guidance notes for Anglers must continue to highlight the water safety advice and must be issued with all permits.	CG Policy & Projects & CG Communities
Design/redesign of public spaces including water features, routing of paths, siting of play areas, barriers and viewing facilities.	Ensure that water safety is embedded into design of the site. Consult and inform the officer responsible for RAP regarding any changes planned.	CG Projects & Policy
CG events planning – whether by PKC or third party.	Ensure water safety is embedded in all event RAPs taking place on Council land.	CG Communities
Replacing and maintaining infrastructure such as bridges or barriers	Ensure they are adequate to prevent accidental entry to water. Inform the officer responsible for RAP of any significant change.	CG Infrastructure
Site inspections	Check that all signage and PRE is fit for purpose (see below). Inform officer responsible for RAP of any significant change to site conditions with implications for water safety.	CG Communities & CG Infrastructure
PRE inspections	Ensure all PRE is checked and any faulty or missing PRE is replaced within 2 working days (see below). Checks to be carried out weekly (April – Oct), monthly (Nov – March) in greenspace areas and daily in Tay Street/ Perth Bridge area.	Operations (grounds maintenance & street sweepers)
RAP	Risk assess sites and keep appropriate records.	CG Infrastructure

3 The Risk Assessment Process (RAP)

Actions identified to reduce risk (controls) must be identified within the context of the wider site character and its amenity value. Seasonal variations and access for emergency responders in case of an incident must be taken into account.

Prevention of drowning – the main factors recognised as contributing to accidental drowning are:

- ignorance, disregard or misjudgment of danger
- unrestricted access to hazard
- absence of adequate supervision
- inability of the person to save themselves or be rescued

In addition, it is known that some people, who enter the water deliberately due to extreme emotional distress or attempted suicide, want to be rescued and respond to rescue attempts.

The RAP can only partly address the above, off-site education regarding the risks of swimming or entering the water contributes to the first point, although on-site signage may be appropriate where risks are not obvious, or there is a known site issue.

The RAP aims to:

- assess the level and type of risk in relation to potential hazards
- identify how to reduce the level of risk where appropriate
- ensure actions (controls) are put in place within a reasonable timescale
- check controls are satisfactory

In relation to water safety particular considerations apply which include:

- The nature of the water - depth, flow rate or current, temperature and quality and the extent to which this can be seen from the bank
- The nature of the water's edge - proximity of deep water to the edge, the size of any drop from edge to the water, gradient of the bank, the accessibility to water from the edge, whether the edge may be slippery or likely to lead to slips, trips or falls
- Hinterland activities - numbers and ages of people likely to be near the water, whether people may be under the influence of alcohol or emotionally unstable
- Water based activity – water sports especially swimming

Controls may include:

- Designing paths, play areas away from water's edge
- Ensuring surfaces adjacent to the water's edge are secure (slips, trips, falls unlikely)
- Creating man-made barriers (fences etc.)
- Managing vegetation to ensure the water's edge is obvious (pruning and/or mown grass borders)
- Creating vegetated barriers to dissuade access to the water's edge
- Warning the public of hazards (on site WSS)
- Providing public rescue equipment (PRE)

3.1 Main water safety considerations – further information.

The risk assessor must take all relevant site characteristics into account to identify the level of risk and appropriate control. The formal banding guide referred to in the previous PKC guidance is no longer promoted by RoSPA so is not included within this RAP. Section 7 provides detailed guidance on appropriate controls based on site characteristics.

3.2 The nature of the water

Deep and/or moving water is generally more hazardous than shallower or still water. While a river in flood is an obvious hazard, during low water summer conditions it may appear relatively low risk to the public, however hazards are likely to include very cold water, uneven river bed with deeper pools and strong localised currents.

These water conditions may not be apparent from the bank and anyone entering the water to swim or wade, even if a competent swimmer, may experience cold body shock, or be swept away in strong currents and be unable to reach safety. For this reason WSS should be placed where there have been recurring instances of people entering the water.

In ponds algal blooms may develop at certain times of year and temporary warning signs may be appropriate to warn people to keep their dogs out of the water. In practice warning signs are only placed at ponds where there is no water movement if an algal bloom is reported.

3.3 The nature and accessibility of the water's edge

Where there is a steep or slippery slope, or drop to the water's edge, there is likely to be a higher risk of someone slipping or falling into the water and anyone entering the water may be unable to climb back out. More gentle gradients reduce the risk of anyone falling in but natural water edges (riverbanks etc.) are likely to be uneven and slippery in wet or cold weather and slips, trips or falls may occur. Controls such as separation through the use of fences where there are sheer or steep drops (1:1 or steeper), and establishment of long, uncut vegetation margins to dissuade access for lower gradients are likely to be required. Where edges are constructed (viewing platforms, pond borders, path surfaces) edges must be secure and obvious to minimise slips or trips. WSS will also be required where there is deep/fast water adjacent to a public facility (path or play area). WSS may be located at main site entrances, and additionally at the water's edge where a particularly hazardous area exists.

3.4 Hinterland activities

The numbers and types of people (ages, abilities) and the nature of the waterside attraction should be considered. If, for example, a popular path, play area or pub is close to the water, controls including barriers, particularly in urban areas, may be required. Mental health issues can lead to distressed people jumping into water as a 'cry for help', they may want to be rescued so provision of PRE where there are known issues, including around the Perth bridges, is valid.

3.5 Water based activities

Swimming in, or jumping into (tombstoning), deep and/ or fast flowing water is high risk and should be discouraged, particularly where there are known hot spots. WSS is required in these situations. Ice on water is an obvious hazard, however, on Council ponds, if there are known incidences of people venturing onto the ice, temporary warning signs are appropriate. Anglers on Council beats receive water safety guidance with their permits and are generally more familiar with the water. Those using public slipways for organised water sports are responsible for their own safety, but WSS and PRE is also required (and is provided) at slipways.

NB Organised events taking place on Council land must have event RAPs which should be checked as appropriate through the booking system (CG Communities section).

4 Council water safety control considerations

4.1 Edge protection

(Section 7.1 provides detailed guidance on appropriate controls based on site characteristics).

The design of public areas aims to increase public amenity while considering water safety. Paths, play areas, and other features attracting people should be routed or located away from the water's edge. Play areas should be at least 6m away from the edge and paths should be at least 2m from the edge. Where viewing platforms or other constructed edges facilitate direct access to the water's edge, secure edges and /or barriers may be required to reduce the risk of slips, trips and falls. Where paths are unsurfaced and are near to steep drops into water, particularly in countryside sites, localised path surfacing improvements may be appropriate to reduce the risk of slips. Constructed barriers include railings, fencing and walls. Existing barriers have been installed in accordance with water safety considerations. Where new barriers are required these should be appropriate to the site conditions (see table 7.1 for further guidance).

The management of vegetation at and near the water's edge is crucial to providing for water safety and can either facilitate or dissuade access to the water's edge.

Where direct access to the water's edge is considered integral to public amenity vegetation should be maintained to ensure the edge and water is obvious. This is appropriate where there are shallow gradients and still, shallow water, and where there is a relatively small area at the water's edge, usually at ponds. Pruning and removing of trees or shrubs which may obscure the edge and maintenance of a wide mown grass edge is required.

Where access to the water's edge is not considered essential and/or extensive natural water's edge exists, vegetation can be managed to create a wide margin of long growth (grass/weeds/shrubs) along the water's edge which dissuades people from access. Biannual cutting in autumn is required to maintain views over the water especially where there are viewing areas and seating.

Within ponds planting within the water is likely to discourage paddling or swimming and encourage wildlife.

Note that in some circumstances (as indicated below) WSS and/or PRE in addition to barriers may be required.

4.2 Water Safety Signage (WSS)

Council WSS, as shown below, is of a standard form and complies with all relevant legislation. It is designed to be highly visible and easy to understand, warns of specific dangers and aims to deter people from entering the water. It advises anyone witnessing an incident to phone 999, although this crucial advice is not immediately obvious.



The Perth & Kinross Water Safety Partnership (PKWSP) has recently replaced the above sign format by the sign format below. The advice to dial 999 is more obvious and for this reason these signs must be used where new signs are required. This sign also includes a space to enter the grid reference which must be accurately completed, the ability to quote an accurate location to emergency services may be crucial to a successful rescue.



WSS should be placed in all relevant greenspace areas, including countryside sites where water safety risks exist. To date warning signage at countryside sites is general and is located at main access only, an example is shown below.



Location of WSS

(Refer to section 7.2 for detailed guidance)

All WSS must be located to be highly visible to site users. Where possible locate WSS at main site access points. Where existing threshold signs exist, WSS signs should be located alongside them. All new threshold (welcome) signs should incorporate WSS if required for the site. Where there are no obvious site access points, WSS can be located at the water's edge, ideally at viewpoints or other key obvious locations. Additional WSS at the water's edge can be used to reinforce those at main access points if required due to the presence of deep/fast water immediately adjacent to a public facility (play area, path), or an area where there is a known and recurring entry to the water. A minimum number of signs should be used and they should be fixed to existing posts or structures to avoid unsightly clutter.

4.3 Public rescue equipment (PRE)

PRE comes as throw lines or lifebelts and both are difficult to use effectively and may distract witnesses from the need to contact emergency services immediately, which must be their first priority. As such, PRE must only be placed at slipways and where there is a known recurring issue with people entering the water. PRE must be located to be highly visible, where it can be used effectively, can be inspected easily and, ideally, where it is overlooked by nearby properties so that it will be less prone to tampering. In most cases this will be next to the water's edge. If PRE is repeatedly vandalised this may be removed and replaced with WSS.

Throw lines are the most common PRE and are designed to be thrown from water level over a distance (up to 25 m line provided) across the water. Lifebelts can only effectively be dropped from a height or thrown a short distance. They are an appropriate choice near high bridges and there are currently two in place on Tay Street near Perth Bridge. Where visual amenity is a significant factor, for example the viewing promontory on Tay Street, and there are no instances of people entering the water here, the PRE should be relocated.

PRE should be accompanied by WSS (within the site). Where PRE and WSS are both located at the waterside, WSS and PRE should be mounted on the same pole, or other fixing, to be most effective and minimise clutter.

4.4 Monitoring of RAP

It is important to monitor the effectiveness of controls and revise them in the light of issues raised or reported incidents. This information will usually be provided through scheduled site inspections or public reporting.

5 Site and PRE Inspections

Site and PRE monitoring inspections are carried out by those who are on site most frequently to carry out a variety of site management functions. Site inspections are carried out by Community Greenspace officers (Rangers) and PRE inspections are undertaken by the Operations squads.

- 5.1 Community Greenspace Rangers monitor sites at a frequency given within the inspection schedule. Most sites involving water safety considerations are inspected on a six monthly basis. Faults are recorded on the database, and any necessary work schedule to remedy faults such as repairs to barriers or path surfacing is created. In all cases priority should be given to these actions.

Checks required and possible actions arising from site inspections:

- Barriers, edges & surfaces - check to ensure they remain structurally sound. Create work programme to remedy any issues, place temporary notice/barrier to restrict access if required
- Path surfaces – check for slip hazards where there are steep drops next to the path. Create work programme or volunteer task to remedy any issues
- Signs - dirty or obscured by vegetation. Clean/clear as required
- PRE - missing or faulty require to be reported to Operations for replacement
- Any significant natural changes to the site relevant to water safety need to be reported to the officer responsible for the site RAP (includes erosion of water's edge, obvious desire lines leading to water's edge)

5.2 Operations inspect all PRE within:

- Tay Street and the area of the bridges in Perth daily
- Greenspace areas on a weekly basis between April and October and monthly between November and March

Spare PRE should be carried in the vehicle so that any damaged or missing PRE can be immediately replaced. A record of inspections must be kept and include locations and dates of all repairs and replacements of PRE. Further stocks of PRE can be ordered through CG Infrastructure.

Checks required with possible actions arising from PRE checking

- Check all PRE casing with lid is in place with markings to standard
- Check all PRE contents of casings are in place – throw-lines & life belts
- Replace any missing or faulty PRE

The images below show new PRE –throw line casing with instructions for use, bagged throw line, lifebelt casing with instructions for use and life belt with rope attached.



6 RAP responsibilities

The CG officer who carries out the risk assessment is responsible for the RAP for the site so needs to be kept informed of any changes to site conditions and any problems with PRE. Appropriate decisions regarding how best to provide for water safety on Council sites can only be made with knowledge of all relevant information. The CG Infrastructure Coordinator will also ensure any re-orders of PRE are made and keep a record of numbers used.

Key decisions will include:

- Where a significant change to the site has been noted – reassess the site within 1 month and change site controls if required
- Where a water safety incident has been reported – reassess the site within 5 working days and change site controls if required
- Where a PRE is repeatedly vandalised or stolen – consider removing and replacing with a sign or other control measure

6.1 Keeping records

- An electronic file for all water safety RAP information will be maintained and available to all relevant officers. This will include:
- Site risk assessments – clearly labelled with site and date assessed. Should include map based location of all barriers, WSS & PRE & photo records of same.
 - All relevant information from site inspections will be stored here
 - Periods for temporary signs will be recorded
 - PKC wide to include:
 - Master sheet of dates of all site RAPS & record of controls per site, including temporary signs
 - Number of PRE ordered and locations and dates of vandalised PRE
 - Key contacts details e.g. *PKWSG

NB Key contacts: Keep contact details of relevant water safety groups including *Perth & Kinross Water Safety Group (PKWSP).

NB Temporary signs: Placement and removal of temporary warning signs in relation to toxic water (algal blooms) and ice are used only at ponds where there is still water and no through flow (Scone, Norrie Millar & South Inch ponds). Ice warning signs are erected for the winter season (Nov-March). Toxic water warning signs are erected if requested by TES Environmental Health, or following enquiries from the public.

7 Guidance based on Site Characteristics

This section provides flow diagrams with accompanying tables to help the risk assessor identify the most appropriate way to reduce the level of risk in relation to water safety based on the characteristics of the site. The proximity of the public facility such as a play area or path to the water's edge is the main consideration.

The boxes on the flow charts which help characterise the site are numbered, and correspond to the reference number on the accompanying table.

Fig 7.1 Guide to Appropriate RAP Controls based on Site Characteristics (diagram and accompanying table). The diagram provides a quick check of critical features at the water's edge in relation to public facilities and shows the control indicated. The table explains the site characteristics with examples and the appropriate controls.

Fig 7.2 Guide to Appropriate Locations for WSS and PRE (diagram and accompanying table). The diagram provides a quick check of site characteristics to indicate where to place any WSS and PRE which is indicated for the site. The table provides further information.

7.1 Guide to Appropriate RAP Controls based on Site Characteristics (see table 7.1)

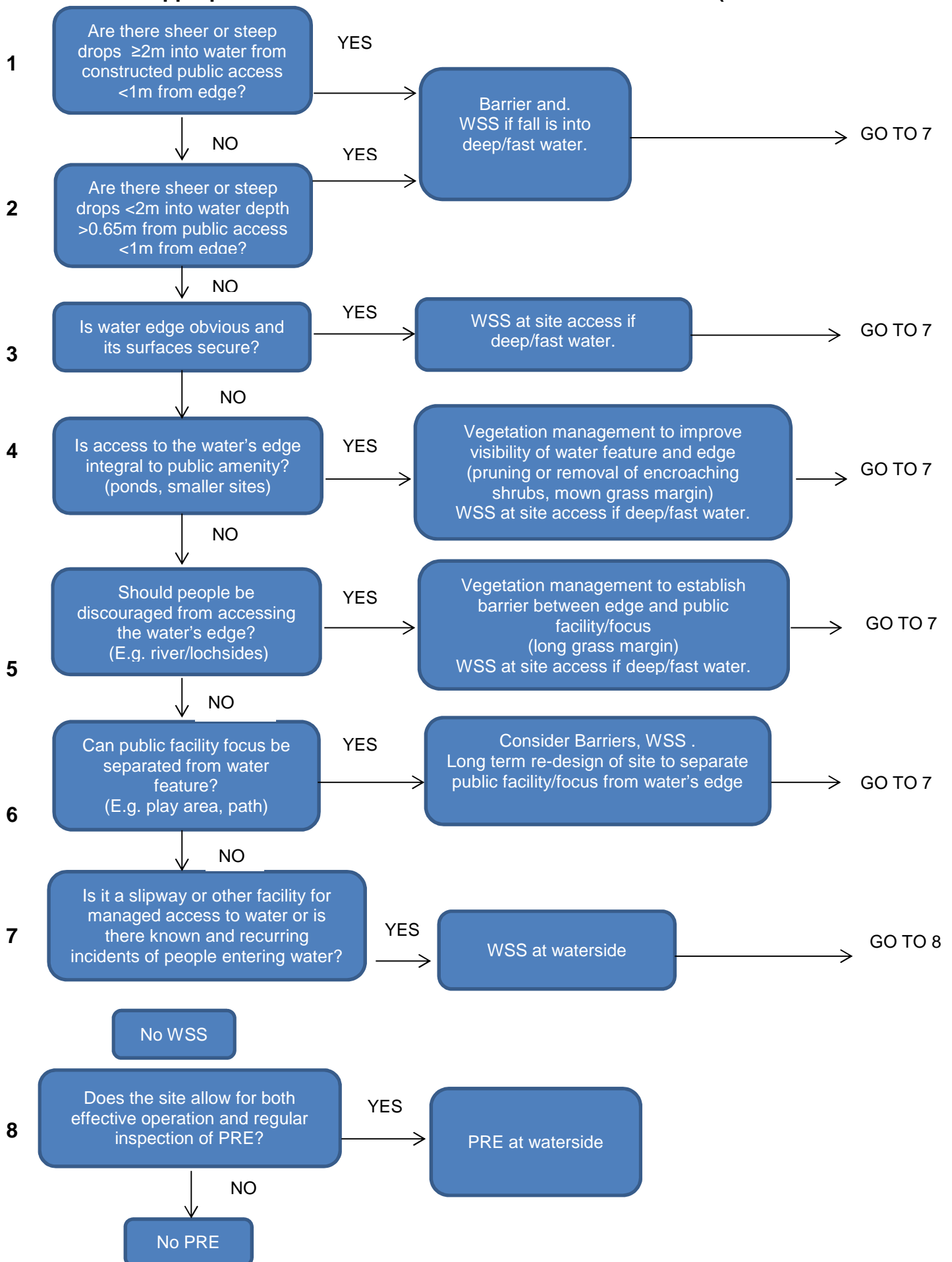


Table 7.1 Guide to Appropriate RAP Controls based on Site Characteristics (table 7.1 refers to diagram 7.1)

This table provides further information on the flow diagram which identifies the appropriate controls based on site characteristics. The table provides detail on the circumstances where each control is most appropriate and includes examples of sites where each control response has been applied.

Ref	Site characteristics and examples	Appropriate RAP control response	Policy and justification, with reference to key RoSPA guidance and PKC previous practice.
1	<p>Sheer and very steep (60 degrees or more) potential falls into water from a height of 2m or greater.</p> <p><u>Constructed Features</u> which promote access to the water edge such as viewing platforms and paths which are adjacent (<1m distance) to the edge.</p> <p>Examples include: sections of Perth lade footways, viewing platforms in parks & countryside sites (e.g. North Inch, Norrie Millar Pond, Dunkeld Riverside car park, Birks of Aberfeldy, Black Spout, Pitlochry).</p>	<p>Surfacing and edges: Constructed waterside surfaces and edging should be secure with no trips. However, it is appropriate to differentiate between formal settings within towns and villages and informal countryside paths, particularly where they access steep sites such as within the Birks of Aberfeldy. Here the nature of the site and terrain is likely to result in a degree of uneven surfaces and informal stone steps (without consistent risers).</p> <p>Barriers: Protective Barriers (normally a rigid construction of timber or metal) To be provided to prevent falls into water of 2m or greater from constructed access features such as viewpoints. Barriers should be attractive and/or discreet and in character with the location, robust and low maintenance. Note that they often double up as 'leaning' points for people to appreciate the landscape and view. Walls should be designed to discourage sitting on them, or walking along them</p>	<p>RoSPA key guidance: The water edge should be secure & obvious with a gentle gradient. Or there should be fencing/barriers to deter/prevent access to water. Where the risk is high, fencing can be used. However, it should be noted that this is an expensive option which needs careful consideration.</p> <p>Council Policy: The Council will continue to consider installing new barriers in relation to water safety only in circumstances indicated by the RAP being where there is a sheer or steep drop (60 degrees or more) into water from an adjacent (within 1m) public facility. Designs which are appropriate to the risk and site character and are low maintenance will be used.</p>

Ref	Site characteristics and examples	Appropriate RAP control response	Policy and justification, with reference to key RoSPA guidance and PKC previous practice.
	<p><u>Informal rural paths.</u> In rural locations due consideration should be given to the character of the site and that it is reasonable for the public to anticipate a lesser measure of control and a greater level of informality within rural areas. Here the WSS signs at site entrances are considered important to promote public awareness, care and responsibility.</p> <p>Examples include: Rumbling Bridge Gorge, Falls of Acharn. Black Spout, Pitlochry.</p>	<p>Fence (usually post and wire) Where the potential fall into water is from an informal rural path a simple post and wire fence may be sufficient to stop people getting too near the edge. In some situations barriers may not be required depending on site conditions.</p> <p>In rural locations it is appropriate to consider the terrain and potential barriers / fencing together. For example, an unavoidably steep and winding section of path, possibly also with informal steps, located within 1 m of the path edge at height (>2m) into deep or fast flowing water, is more likely to require a fence or barrier.</p> <p>In countryside sites fewer barriers are provided where there are steep drops near to paths. Localised path improvements may be more appropriate such as improved drainage to minimise erosion and/or informal steps.</p> <p>It is also appropriate to consider other functions of a fence or barrier such as providing an informal handrail to aid access for the less mobile or leaning point if there is a viewpoint.</p> <p>NB Existing barriers have been installed in accordance with water safety considerations and should be sufficient.</p>	<p>PKC previous practice where it may differ from Policy: Appropriately designed barriers are generally in place where there are sheer drops from viewing areas, bridges and pathways. Barriers are frequently in place where there are very steep drops near to pathways. This guidance provides both a gradient of steepness and a distance from a public facility such as a path to increase consistency. NB An issue has been raised with the Council previously regarding a section within Norrie Millar Riverside Park (near the pond) where there is no barrier to prevent a sheer drop of over 2m to the river. Substantial barrier exists over most areas where the path comes near to the river's edge. Where there is no barrier the constructed path is set well back from the edge (3m) and the area between the path and edge is largely level. A wide margin of unmown grass has been established to dissuade access to the edge. The assessors view is that the risk is obvious to users, they are remote from the edge and amenity of the site and unique views across to the Town would be compromised by the erection of a barrier.</p>

Ref	Site characteristics and examples	Appropriate RAP control response	Policy and justification, with reference to key RoSPA guidance and PKC previous practice.
		<p>Water Safety signage (WSS): To be provided only as part of welcome site signage at main access points. May be provided at focal points such as viewpoints where there are many accesses or where the risk is significant. All signs must adhere to the approved format and locations (see 4.4 & 7.2) Please also see 7 below.</p> <p>Public rescue equipment (PRE): Not usually required on the basis that the barrier minimises accidental entry to water. Please also see 8 below.</p> <p>Note also in relation to WSS & PRE: Constructed public facilities can be a focal point for the site (e.g. viewing platforms) so may be the best available location for any WSS or PRE indicated for the wider site.</p>	<p>(see 7 & 8 below for Policies relating to placement of WSS & PRE)</p>

Ref	Site characteristics and examples	Appropriate RAP control response	Policy and justification, with reference to key RoSPA guidance and PKC previous practice.
2	<p>As above in 1 but with sheer or steep drops of less than 2m into water of a depth of 0.65m or more and/or is fast flowing from a constructed public facility such as viewing platform or footway/path.</p> <p>Examples sheer drops:</p> <p>Low viewing areas.</p> <p>Examples steep drops:</p> <p>short sections of paths in parks or countryside settings</p>	<p>The appropriate RAP response is as in 1 above, the only exception is in the consideration of potential protective barriers or fence as described in the situations above, which would only be appropriate here where the edge is not obvious and where the water depth is 0.65m or above and/or is fast flowing.</p> <p>Note that rain can substantially increase the depth of the water to more than 0.65m and increase the flow speed.</p>	<p>as 1 above</p>
3	<p>The water's edge is obvious and its surfaces are secure.</p> <p>Water edges are obvious and can be easily seen from the wider area (3m). There are no hidden dangers at the water's edge and accidental falls into water are unlikely.</p>	<p>Surfacing and edges: Where the surfacing at the edge is constructed to prevent slips and trips.</p> <p>Design of ponds: Where ponds are constructed or redesigned edges must be secure and/or have gentle gradients. Water depth should be shallow at the edge and should not exceed 0.65m so that anyone accidentally entering the water can easily stand up and climb out. Planting and growth of appropriate water plants should be encouraged to discourage access and encourage biodiversity.</p>	<p>RoSPA key guidance: The water edge should be secure and obvious with a gentle gradient.</p> <p>Shallow water (less than 0.66m) should extend a minimum of 2m from the water edge with a 1:3 gradient. With depths from 0.65 -1.36m a margin of 1.75m should be maintained from edge with gradient of 1:2.5. Planting as an alternative to grading where a steep gradient or shallow gradient (swimming temptation) exists, the planting of vegetation can act as a deterrent.</p>

Ref	Site characteristics and examples	Appropriate RAP control response	Policy and justification, with reference to key RoSPA guidance and PKC previous practice.
	<p>Usually designed pond areas with managed edges.</p> <p>Examples: South Inch & Norrie Millar Ponds.</p>	<p>Water Safety signage (WSS): Not usually required at ponds. To be provided where there is deep and/or fast flowing water adjacent to a public facility usually only as part of welcome site signage at main access points. Please also see 7 below.</p> <p>Temporary signage may be required to warn of toxic water such as blue green algae, or ice. This will only occur in ponds where there is low or no water flow. (i.e. Norrie Millar Pond, Scone & South Inch Ponds).</p> <p>Public rescue equipment (PRE): Not required. Please also see 8 below.</p>	<p>Council Policies: The Council will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to ensure water safety is a key consideration in relation to design of ponds and other water features. Ponds will have secure edges with gentle gradients. Water will be shallow (0.65m or less), particularly at edges and water plants will be established to dissuade entry to the water and encourage biodiversity. Continue to place temporary signs when required at pond locations where there is no water flow to warn people of the risk of toxic water and ice. <p>PKC previous practice where it may differ from Policy: (See 6 for design of public places) The SUDS pond on the North Inch is managed to create an obvious vegetated barrier around the pond to discourage access to the edge while allowing views into the pond area. Water plants flourish within the pond, it appears to be a wildlife pond and it is not likely that anyone would enter the water (PRE is provided but there is no WSS).</p>

Ref	Site characteristics and examples	Appropriate RAP control response	Policy and justification, with reference to key RoSPA guidance and PKC previous practice.
			<p>WSS & PRE – currently there is some inconsistency with WSS being in place at South Inch and Norrie Millar Ponds but not at other ponds such as Beatrix Potter Pond. PRE – Throwlines are currently provided at Norrie Millar Pond and the North Inch SUDS pond but not at other ponds. It is recommended that WSS and PRE is not usually required at ponds. (See 7 for appropriate locations of WSS & PRE)</p>

Ref	Site characteristics and examples	Appropriate RAP control response	Policy and justification, with reference to key RoSPA guidance and PKC previous practice.
4	<p>Access to water's edge is considered integral to public amenity and is possible over a restricted area.</p> <p>Water edges and/or water feature may not be obvious from the public facility focus and wider area (3m). There may be hidden dangers at the edge, so trips and slips may be possible.</p> <p>Includes ponds in naturalised environments and some areas of natural water edges (river/loch banks).</p> <p>Examples of sites where this management has been applied: Beatrix Potter Pond, Loch Leven waterside within Kirkgate Park.</p>	<p>Surfacing and edges: Where the surfacing at the edge is constructed this must be secure with no trips. A gentle gradient into the water is preferable although not always possible.</p> <p>Vegetation management: If there is any hidden danger from the water feature and/or its edges being not obvious consider whether a different maintenance objective and/or a re-design of the area can remedy this (see options 4, 5 & 6).</p> <p>In sites where access to the water's edge is facilitated within a small area as an integral feature for public amenity the vegetation should be managed to ensure the edge and water feature is obvious and minimise the risk of accidental entry to water. This may be achieved through pruning or removal of obscuring trees or shrubs and/or maintaining a wide (3m or more) short mown grass margin around the water feature. This would include natural shallow beach areas.</p> <p>Water Safety Signage (WSS): To be provided where there is deep and/or fast flowing water adjacent to a public facility usually only as part of welcome site signage at main access points. Please also see 7 below.</p> <p>Public rescue equipment (PRE): Not required. Please also see 8 below.</p>	<p>RoSPA key guidance: The water edge should be secure and obvious with a gentle gradient.</p> <p>Council Policy: Where access to the water's edge is considered integral to the amenity of the site, the Council will continue to manage water edge vegetation to ensure the edge is obvious, for example at ponds. This can be achieved by pruning or removal of obscuring trees or shrubs and/or the maintenance of a wide mown grass border.</p> <p>PKC previous practice where it may differ from Policy: This form of management is used at ponds to ensure the edges remain obvious. In some cases this approach is used for only part of the pond edge where access is facilitated. For example, at Beatrix Potter Pond there is a viewing platform from the path while the remainder of the pond's edge is inaccessible due to shrubs.</p>

Ref	Site characteristics and examples	Appropriate RAP control response	Policy and justification, with reference to key RoSPA guidance and PKC previous practice.
5	<p>People should be dissuaded from accessing the water's edge.</p> <p>Water edges and/or water feature may not be obvious from the public facility focus and wider area (3m). There may be hidden dangers at the edge, so trips and slips may be possible.</p> <p>Access to the water's edge is not provided as integral to public amenity. A river or loch contributes to the amenity and enjoyment of a site but may be appreciated from a greater distance; and people should be dissuaded from accessing the water's edge. Access to the water's edge is therefore not encouraged or formalised (although the water feature remains a key feature for public</p>	<p>Vegetation management: The public should be discouraged from accessing the water's edge through the establishment and maintenance of a wide (3m or more) vegetated barrier of long grass/weeds and shrubs along the water's edge. Views should be maintained, particularly from seats and other viewpoints, through the periodic pruning or removal of large trees & shrubs.</p> <p>Water Safety Signage (WSS): To be provided where there is deep and/or fast flowing water adjacent to a public facility, usually only as part of welcome site signage at main access points. May also be required at waterside locations if evidence shows that people are taking regular access to particular places where there is deep or fast water close to the edge. Please also see 7 below.</p> <p>Public rescue equipment (PRE): Not required. Please also see 8 below.</p>	<p>RoSPA key guidance: The water edge should be secure and obvious with a gentle gradient. Or there should be a vegetative barrier to deter access to the water's edge.</p> <p>Council Policy: The Council will, where access to the water's edge is not considered integral to the amenity of the site, continue to manage water edge vegetation to discourage access, for example to separate a path from a natural riverbank. This can be achieved by the maintenance of a wide uncut margin of natural vegetation between the public facility and the water's edge</p> <p>PKC previous practice where it may differ from Policy: This form of management has been widely used along natural riversides where the river and banks are largely obvious but in places, or during poor weather, the edge may become less obvious, become slippery or be subject to erosion or partial flooding. WSS & PRE - currently there is some inconsistency with WSS provided at main accesses to Dunkeld Riverside Park but not at Blairgowrie Riverside Park. PRE is provided within the North</p>

Ref	Site characteristics and examples	Appropriate RAP control response	Policy and justification, with reference to key RoSPA guidance and PKC previous practice.
	<p>amenity within the site).</p> <p>Usually natural riverbanks.</p> <p>Examples of sites where this management has been applied: SUDS pond North Inch, Blairgowrie and Dunkeld Riverside Parks, cycle path along the river Tay within the North Inch and extending to Almond mouth.</p>		<p>Inch but not in Blairgowrie or Dunkeld riverside parks.</p> <p>(See 7 for appropriate locations of WSS & PRE)</p>

Ref	Site characteristics and examples	Appropriate RAP control response	Policy and justification, with reference to key RoSPA guidance and PKC previous practice.
6	<p>Where space allows the public facility focus (play area, path) should be moved away from the edge of any deep or fast flowing water.</p> <p>Edges to deep or fast flowing water may not be obvious from the public facility focus and wider area (3m). There may be hidden dangers at the edge, so trips and slips may be possible.</p> <p>Examples: There are no current examples. This standard should be applied when creating or refurbishing play areas.</p>	<p>Redesign: Where there is a public facility attraction such as a play area or path close to the water's edge (where there is deep/fast water) and where there is adequate space to move the public facility, such as a play area or path further from the water, this should be considered as a long term option. Play areas should be at least 6m and paths should be at least 2m from the water's edge.</p> <p>Play areas are within both Dunkeld and Blairgowrie Riverside Parks but have been placed as far from the water's edge as possible, being at least 6m away from the edge. In both cases access to the edge has been discouraged by establishing long vegetated margins along the riverbank.</p> <p>Barriers: To be provided where safe distances can't be met.</p> <p>Water Safety Signage (WSS): To be provided where there is deep or fast flowing water adjacent to the edge from a public facility as part of welcome site signage at main access points, and at the water's edge (until redesign only). Please also see 7 below.</p> <p>Public rescue equipment (PRE): Not required. Please also see 8 below.</p>	<p>RoSPA key guidance: Pathways should be designed away from the water edge to create a distance of vegetation between. Where a high risk is identified the path can lead visitors away from the water.</p> <p>Council Policy: The Council will continue to ensure design of public places, and in particular play areas, which are near to water bodies take water safety considerations into account. Where play areas and/or paths are located near deep and/or fast water a minimum separation margin, of 6m for play areas and 2m for paths, from the water's edge will be ensured.</p>

Ref	Site characteristics and examples	Appropriate RAP control response	Policy and justification, with reference to key RoSPA guidance and PKC previous practice.
7	<p>Slipways and other facilities for managed access to water.</p> <p>Areas where there are known and recurring incidences of people entering deep or fast flowing water for recreation or for self-harm.</p> <p>Examples: Perth slipways, Perth Bridges, Woody and Moncrieff Islands.</p>	<p>Water Safety signage (WSS): To be provided.</p> <p>Public rescue equipment (PRE): To be provided at slipways. Please also see 8 below. For appropriate location of WSS & PRE see diagram 2 and table 2.</p>	<p>RoSPA key guidance: Signage is particularly important to improve awareness of danger and hazards. All signage should be located as guided by the RAP and designed, placed and maintained to be highly visible. WSS should be placed with all (PRE). WSS should include emergency contact details and request that any incidents or faults should be reported to the Council.</p> <p>Local water sports bodies have responsibility for their own activities. However, site owners still have responsibility to ensure basic health and safety standards are attained.</p> <p>Council Policy: (see table 2 for Policy regarding locations of WSS)</p> <p>The Council will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • continue to place WSS in locations indicated by the RAP, being: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ at slipways (facilities for managed access to water) ○ where deep and/or fast flowing water is adjacent to a public facility

Ref	Site characteristics and examples	Appropriate RAP control response	Policy and justification, with reference to key RoSPA guidance and PKC previous practice.
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ where there are known and recurring incidents of entry to water • Now consider removing signage at locations where the hazard is obvious and the risk is low, for example at ponds. • Continue to provide anglers using Council fishing beats with water safety guidance when applying for a permit. <p>PKC previous practice where it may differ from Policy: WSS & PRE are currently provided in Perth at slipways, at various locations on Tay Street and on the bridges, and near to Woody and Moncrieff Island in response to incidents of deliberate entry to water. WSS is provided at some ponds but not at others. This Policy will encourage a consistent approach to use of WSS.</p>

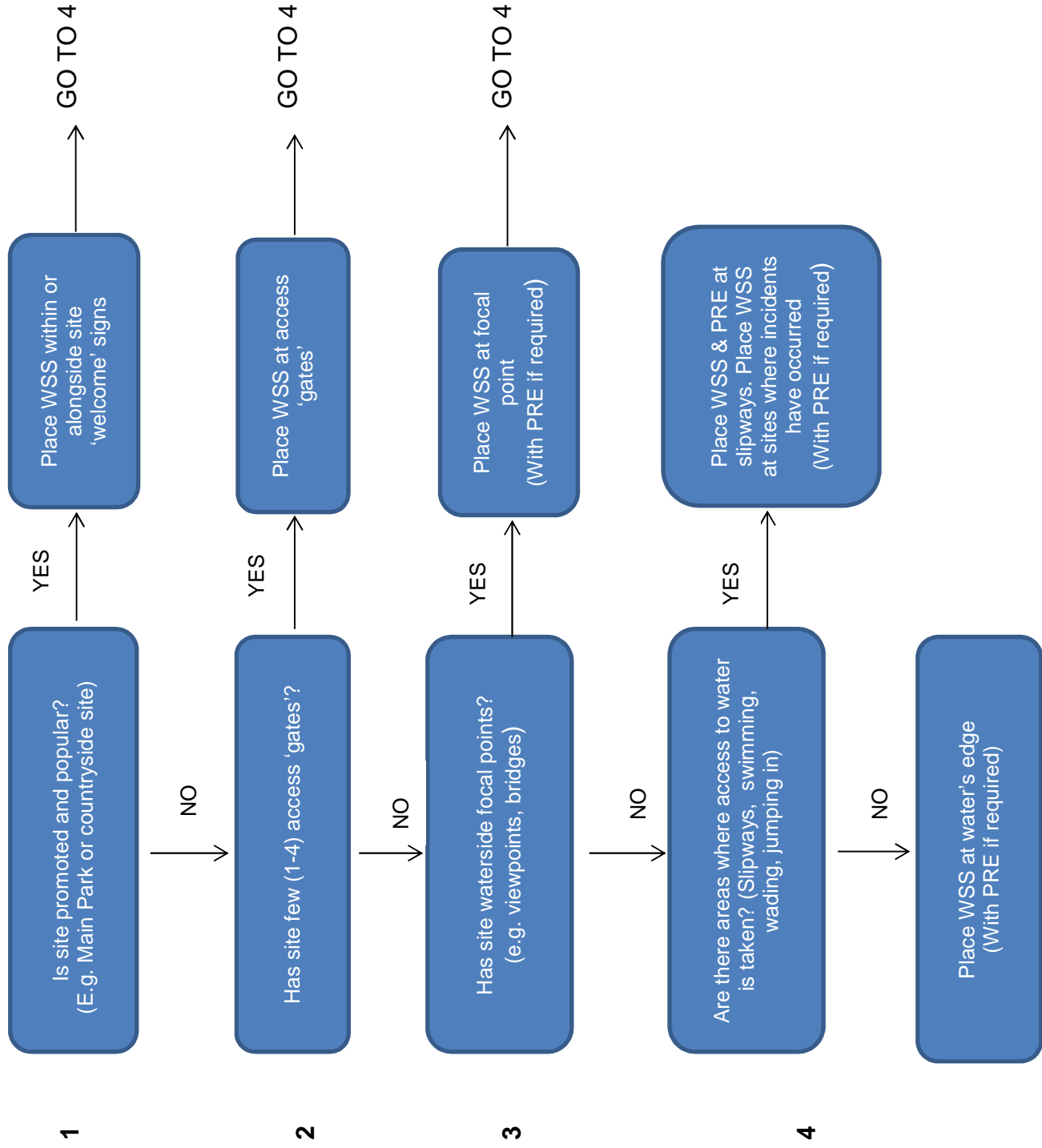
Ref	Site characteristics and examples	Appropriate RAP control response	Policy and justification, with reference to key RoSPA guidance and PKC previous practice.
8	<p>Sites where both effective operation and regular inspection of PRE is possible and where PRE is otherwise indicated.</p> <p>Examples:</p> <p>Woody and Moncrieff Islands, Perth Bridges area. Kirkgate Park, Kinross.</p>	<p>Public Rescue Equipment (PRE): To be provided where PRE can be both used effectively and inspected on a regular basis and where there are known and recurring incidents of deliberate entry to water.</p> <p>PRE should be provided only where it is likely to reach a conscious casualty so will not be provided where:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High falls are likely to be fatal and rescuers are likely to put themselves in danger to operate PRE (e.g. countryside gorges) • Fast flowing water will carry casualty rapidly out of range of PRE • Regular (weekly) inspections of PRE is not practical due to remote location. <p>If PRE is repeatedly vandalised making effective operation impossible, first consider an alternative location for the PRE where it is overlooked so will be less liable to vandalism. If this is not a feasible option replace the PRE with WSS and consider whether any further actions are required in relation to the particular site specific circumstances.</p>	<p>RoSPA key guidance: PRE is only useful as part of a drowning prevention strategy and is not a key risk control measure itself. The provision of PRE will need to be identified through the RAP and location will reflect points of access.</p> <p>Lifebelts are designed to be dropped into water from a steep bank.</p> <p>Throw lines are designed to be thrown on the same level e.g. from a riverbank.</p> <p>PRE should be checked and results recorded weekly at well used locations in summer.</p> <p>If PRE needs regular replacement due to vandalism, location and alternative safety method should be considered.</p> <p>Council Policy: The Council will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ continue to place PRE at locations as informed by the RAP being where: ○ there are known and recurring instances of deliberate entry to water ○ they are highly visible ○ they can be used effectively ○ they can be regularly inspected and maintained

Ref	Site characteristics and examples	Appropriate RAP control response	Policy and justification, with reference to key RoSPA guidance and PKC previous practice.
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Continue to ensure all PRE is clearly marked with instructions on use and that WSS is provided nearby. o Now remove PRE which is repeatedly vandalised and consider relocation or replacement with WSS. o Now consider removal or relocation of existing PRE within sites with multiple PRE to ensure the most effective and sustainable placement of PRE. o Now inspect all Council PRE on Greenspace sites once a week between April and October and monthly between November and March, record any defects and replace with functional PRE within 2 working days. o Continue to inspect PRE on Tay Street daily throughout the year, record any defects and replace with functional PRE within 2 working days.

Ref	Site characteristics and examples	Appropriate RAP control response	Policy and justification, with reference to key RoSPA guidance and PKC previous practice.
			<p>PKC previous practice where it may differ from Policy: PRE are currently provided at all the slipways in Perth and at various locations on Tay Street and around the bridges, and near to Woody and Moncrieff Island in response to incidents of deliberate entry to water.</p> <p>Throwlines have assisted in rescues in the Perth bridge area; however, the number of throwlines on Tay Street should be reduced and positioned at bridges, viewpoints and slipways only. One of the existing lifebelts (adjacent to Canal St) should be repositioned to be more available at the bridges from where they can be dropped.</p> <p>Within Kirkgate Park there are PRE (throwlines) spaced along the water's edge. These should be reduced in number and sited with WSS at main access points to the Loch Leven Trail within the park only.</p> <p>The numbers of replacement PRE ordered indicate that there are persistent issues with theft / vandalism in some locations.</p>

Ref	Site characteristics and examples	Appropriate RAP control response	Policy and justification, with reference to key RoSPA guidance and PKC previous practice.
			<p>The Policy will encourage the most effective placing of PRE and avoids overprovision, or placement of PRE where it may be ineffective, put rescuers in danger, encourage a false sense of security, or where it cannot be adequately inspected and maintained.</p>

7.2 Guide to Appropriate Locations for Water Safety Signs (WSS) and Public Rescue Equipment (PRE) (see table 7.2)



Number and location of WSS & PRE:

Should be located to be highly visible. In most circumstances a few well-placed WSS or PRE should be adequate per site. WSS should be located at main access points where possible. Where incidents of entry to the water are known additional WSS may also be appropriate at these locations. Where no obvious entry point can be identified the most visible waterside location should be used.

PRE should always be accompanied by WSS within the site. Where both WSS and PRE are located at the 'water' edge these should be mounted on the same pole. PRE should always be located at the water's edge either at focal points, or at the most visible location at, or close to, areas used for access to water.

If PRE is repeatedly vandalised this should be moved to an alternative more overlooked location. If this is not possible or vandalism persists it should be removed and replaced with WSS.

Table 7.2 Guide to Appropriate Locations for Water Safety Signs (WSS) and Public Rescue Equipment (PRE) (table 7.2 refers to diagram 7.2)

This table provides further information on the flow diagram which identifies the appropriate locations for WSS and PRE based on site characteristics. Diagram 1 and Table 1 clarifies where WSS and PRE are indicated.

<p>1</p> <p>Is the site promoted and popular? For example a main park or countryside site.</p>	<p>WSS should be positioned at main site accesses to ensure that most site users see it. Where threshold (welcome) signs exist WSS should be positioned beside these signs. Where new threshold signs are planned WSS should be incorporated into this signage with appropriate site specific advice. In all cases WSS should comply with the National Water Safety Signage Standard.</p>	<p>RoSPA key guidance: Signage is particularly important to improve awareness of danger and hazards. All signage should be located as guided by the RAP and designed, placed and maintained to be highly visible. WSS should be placed with all (PRE).</p> <p>Three types of signs should be considered being:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Access signs – map at site entrance to explain risks and features of site, location of PRE and what to do in an emergency. 2. Sign at key locations – at risk area highly visible to warn of specific risk and what to do in an emergency 3. Nag signs – smaller to repeat key message. <p>Council Policies: The Council will place and maintain WSS to ensure they are highly visible to most site users. A minimum number of WSS will be used to maintain the wider public amenity value of the area and avoid clutter. WSS will be located at main site entrances where possible, or at site</p>
<p>2</p> <p>Has the site few (1-4) access 'gates'?</p>	<p>Please also see 4 below.</p> <p>WSS should be positioned at main site accesses to ensure that most site users see it. Where a site has a low number of main accesses WSS can be positioned at each access.</p>	
<p>3</p> <p>Has the site got waterside focal points? For example viewpoints, bridges or slipways.</p>	<p>Where there are many or no specific accesses to a site it is more feasible to position WSS at any waterside focal point to ensure that most site users see it. Where a viewpoint or bridge is present these may provide good focal points. If PRE is required at the site position both WSS and PRE at the same waterside location and using the same mounting if possible.</p>	
<p>4</p> <p>Are there areas where access to water is known to be taken?</p>	<p>Place WSS (with PRE if required) at the most obvious location by the waterside where access to the water is known to occur.</p>	

5	If none of the above apply	Where indicated by the RAP, this may be in addition to WSS at the main site access. Place WSS at the water's edge in the most visible location available.	focal points, and/or by the waterside. PKC previous practice where it may differ from Policy: WSS are also provided (as noted above) at viewpoints and some path junctions on the N Inch. In other settlements WSS are positioned at key access points where paths and parks are near to deep/fast water. This Policy will ensure WSS are positioned in a more consistent manner, generally at site access points in all relevant areas including within countryside sites.
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