

## Working on waterways

Working around waterways can be hazardous, but careful consideration to the factors highlighted below can ensure a safe clean-up event can take place. Participants should not enter the water at any stage to collect litter, and if you have identified an area with larger items in the watercourse then please contact your local Keep Wales Tidy officer for advice.

**Water levels and current** – before running your event, you should check the water level and the flow of the water, especially during and after periods of heavy rain. If the levels are high or too fast, then you should consider postponing your event until a later date.

**Water entry (rescue equipment)** – as previously stated, your clean-up activity should not include any participant entering the water to retrieve litter. If your chosen area has significant litter and/or waste in the water, then please seek further advice from your local Keep Wales Tidy officer. If the site conditions pose a risk to any participant accidentally falling into the water, then consideration should be given to appropriate personal rescue equipment, and whether any is sited nearby.

**Work area (wet/slippery, uneven, banking)** – when taking part in a clean-up event around watercourses, participants should be encouraged to wear appropriate footwear (such as boots) to help deal with slippery and or uneven ground that is likely to be in the work area. If working on the banking, care should be taken to ensure that view of the edge is not obscured by undergrowth, as well as concealing wildlife.

