

**Worcester divers  
Risk assessment**

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| <b>Site:</b> The Gullet Quarry, Castlemorton, Malvern |
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**Risk levels**

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|---------------|---|
| 1 – Very High | Injury is very likely unless control actions are implemented  |
| 2 – High      | Injury is quite likely, control actions should be implemented |
| 3 – Moderate  | Medium risk of injury, control actions strongly advised       |
| 4 – Low       | Low risk, control actions advised                             |
| 5 – Very Low  | Very low risk of injury, control actions advised              |

| Risk identified          | Risk level   | Potential implications                         | Control  | Comments   |
|--------------------------|--------------|--|--|--|
| Slips, trips & falls     | 2 - High     | Cuts<br>Abrasions<br>Broken bones              | Exercise caution in approaching the lake side.<br>Deploy clamber ropes where necessary – particularly if entering from the south bund.   | Pathways are not maintained to any high degree.  |
| Falling rocks            | 3 - Moderate | Body injuries.<br>Unconsciousness              | Keep clear of rock faces both in water & out<br>Keep watch for falling rocks   |  |
| Underwater obstructions  | 3 – Moderate | Personal injury.<br>Unconsciousness underwater | Underwater activities should proceed slowly & with caution   | Underwater visibility is usually poor & silty (below 1 metre)  |
| Cold water immersion     | 2 – High     | Hypothermia<br>Death                           | Monitor water temperature<br>Thermal protection should be worn (Drysuit or thick semi-dry)   | Individuals to be removed from water & gently warmed before deeper signs of hypothermia become apparent  |
| Drowning                 | 3 – Moderate | Near drowning<br>Death                         | Diver training –<br>Only competent, qualified divers or trainees under direct supervision should dive in the quarry.<br>All users to be competent swimmers & confident in open water situations.<br>Divers should provide their own emergency O2 kit & at least one person qualified to administer it.<br>Divers should be familiar with diver rescue techniques & trained in life saving skills | A life ring is available at the southern end of the quarry (though subject to vandalism). All other life saving devices – Throw lines, ropes, first aid kit, O2 etc. should be provided by the divers. |
| Handling heavy equipment | 2 - High     | Back injury<br>Muscle injury                   | Training<br>Assistance with carrying & donning heavy equipment   | Correct handling techniques should be covered during diver training  |
| Diving barotraumas       | 3 - Moderate | Ear injury<br>Mask squeeze<br>Lung barotraumas | Diver training – diving techniques in accord with a recognised diving body (BSAC, PADI) should be observed.<br>Emergency O2 should be made available   |  |

- The Gullet quarry is located at the top of Castlemorton Common, between Midsummer Hill & Swinyard Hill.
- In all instances, divers wishing to use the site should contact Richard Vale, head warden for Malvern Hills Conservators on 07768 505278, or Malvern Hills Conservators directly on 01684 892002. Permission is rarely refused provided you follow the Codes of Practice for your affiliated diving agency and also agree to abide by the bylaws of Malvern Hills Conservators.
- Divers should park their vehicles in the Pay & Display car park which is near to the site (approx 400 metres) and purchase a ticket. Make sure you lock your vehicles & put any valuables out of sight. By prior arrangement, the warden will unlock the barrier to permit a couple of cars to ferry equipment & to park closer to the water. From here, divers can then carry their equipment to the water's edge to get kitted up. Great care is needed as the paths can be slippery & narrow in places – particularly between the east wall & the cliff drop-off. Also beware of falling rocks.
- Other than a single life ring (which is subject to theft or vandalism) there are no facilities at the Gullet site. All safety equipment, inc. ropes, throw lines, buoyancy aids, first aid kit, O2 & telephone should be provided by those using the site. The nearest public telephone is located at Hollybush, approx 1Km south of the site, another is located approx 2Km east from the site, near the junction of B4208 and the approach road that runs across the common - there is also a public house (Plume of Feathers) near here.
- Users of the site should be aware that it is visited regularly by members of the public & divers are reminded to be respectful of this. Though forbidden, the lake is sometimes used by swimmers & people jumping in from the cliff face, therefore shore cover is mandatory at all times whilst divers are in the water. If conducting simulated rescues for training purposes, it's quite likely that passing walkers may falsely raise an alarm with good intention, so be ready to inform them that it's a training exercise.
- The depth of the water is between 3 & 5 metres, the lake bed is very silty & visibility is usually quite poor, especially after rain. The water quality is untreated but is usually good as the lake is fed from the hills. There are a couple of items in the lake (a van & lorry axle), & the water is populated by the rare native white claw crayfish as well as a few fresh water bass.

This information has been compiled by Worcester Divers on behalf of Malvern Hills Conservators. The information is correct to the best of our knowledge but neither Worcester Divers nor MHC will be held legally responsible for the accuracy therein. It is highly recommended that anyone wishing to use the site for diving recreation should verify for themselves the safety aspects of diving in the quarry as well as conducting their own risk assessment before diving takes place. Please inform either Worcester Divers or Malvern Hills Conservators if you notice any changes in the conditions that we should be aware of.

**Diving is a high risk activity & should only be done by experienced divers or those under qualified supervision. All divers using the Gullet quarry do so at their own risk.**

[www.worcesterdivers.com](http://www.worcesterdivers.com)

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