



Body Recovery From Water Study Questionnaire

The aim of this study is to collect and share data with the search community and investigation teams regarding body recoveries in inland water to make us more effective in both the searching for and the recovery of bodies. Enhancing our knowledge and skills will ensure that we save time and money in searching for missing people, minimise the risk to all of those involved and may be able to give an earlier resolution to the families of missing people and expedite any investigation.

There are certain factors that can affect the movement and subsequent location of the human body in water and these variables could effectively determine the search parameters and the subsequent success of the operation.

It is vital to the success of this project to get data on body recoveries from search, rescue and recovery teams so that the database can be built up and statistical analysis carried out on the results. This would provide us with a means to target and prioritise search areas and increase our chances of success in the future.

Please help achieve the aims of the Study by providing both current and retrospective data of your waterborne body recoveries so that analysis of the data can be shared amongst us all.

Any of the fields can be left blank if needed and all information collected will remain confidential. The database is protected so that it cannot be disclosed or used for commercial gain but analysis of the data will be freely shared with the search community for the benefit of missing person investigations.

You can find out more information on the Study website: 'www.bodywaterstudy.co.uk'
There is also an option to complete this questionnaire securely online on the website.

Should you have any questions regarding the project please contact me either via the website or using the contact details below.

Many thanks,

Lorna

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Organisation recovering body and where based	
Location where body was recovered (i.e. Grid reference and country or river / lake name and nearest street in addition to area name and country)	
Reference (Any available reference numbers)	
Reason for being in water (i.e. Suicide/accident/deposition etc..)	
Factors associated with disappearance (i.e. Alcohol/depression/accident/crime etc..)	
Circumstances of disappearance	
Date of recovery	
Date missing / Date of entry into water	
Type of water (fresh/salt/brackish)	
Type of environment (i.e. river/stream/harbour/lake/canal/urban/rural etc.)	
Depth of water (meters)	
Temperature of water (degrees Celsius or specify if other)	
Tidal/Non tidal water	
Flow of water since body entered water (max in knots in order to determine to effects the flow may have had on the movement of the body)	
Obstructions (Please describe if present and nature of obstructions include organic obstructions such as branches and uneven bottom or sides)	
Distance of recovery point from submersion point and direction (please state if not able to determine submersion point – please state the direction the body has moved in i.e. up or downstream, away from bank etc.)	
Any additional information on water variables (Additional information that could have effected body movement such as weir gates or shipping movements etc.)	



Sex of body (M/F/Transgender)	
Ethnic Classification	
Age of body prior to death in years	
Weight of body prior to death (‘child’ (under 16) or ‘small/medium/large adult’)	
Height of body (short/medium/tall)	
Footwear if applicable (as much detail as possible)	
Clothing worn on body (as much detail as possible)	
Type of fibres worn on the body (i.e. cotton/wool/polyester/man-made/leather etc..)	
Body weighted down? (details)	
Location of body in water (i.e. on bottom/mid water/on surface etc..)	
Position of body in water (i.e. lying on front/lying on back/side/standing etc..)	
Visual description of state of body on recovery <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. No visible changes2. Slight discolouration, goose pimpling3. Yellow/green discolouration of abdomen and upper chest. Marbling4. Dark green discolouration of abdomen, mild bloating of abdomen, initial skin slippage5. Green/purple discolouration, extensive abdominal bloating, exposure of underlying fat and tissues6. Black discolouration, initial exposure of internal organs and bones7. Further loss of tissues and organs, more bone exposed, adipocere formation8. Complete skeletisation and disarticulation	
Any additional information (any other information regarding the body or environment that could have affected the movement or decomposition)	