

Risk Assessment Shropshire Paddlesport



Date:	01.05.2026
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Assessor's Name:	Bill Norris	Review Date:	01.05.2027
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Description of Assessment:	Guided paddle in a sheltered water canal, river or lake environment
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Location Details:	TBC
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What are the hazards?	Who might be harmed and how?	What are you already doing to control the risks?	What further action do you need to take to control the risks?	Who needs to carry out the action?	When is the action needed by?	Done
Injury or drowning while paddling on a lake	Participants and Volunteers Participants - Drowning, Secondary drowning, Hypothermia, Entrapment Sharps injuries	Buoyancy aids (BA)/Personal Flotation Device (PFD) appropriately sized and fitted All Leaders/Coaches have been deployed by the club including first aid and safeguarding checks Appropriate First Aid kits available and are to be taken out on trips All trip members briefed as required Ensuring that all participants are competent for the trip.	Ensure paddlers paddle in groups, no lone paddling permitted	Trip Leader and all coaches / leaders present on trip	On location safety brief	

Risk Assessment Shropshire Paddlesport

Other water Users	Participants Contact injuries	Avoid other water users including swimmers, anglers, powered & un powered craft and model boat hobbyists	Members briefed at start of trip to be aware	Trip Leader and all coaches / leaders present on trip	On location safety brief	
Microorganisms (infection)	Members and guests. Leptospirosis, Viral/bacterial illness Blue green algae	Members to be educated on potential risks All Leaders and Coaches first aid trained. Participants advised to wash their hands before eating Discourage capsize or swimming practice after heavy rainfall	Members briefed at start of trip to be aware	Trip Leader and all coaches / leaders present on trip	On location safety brief	
Slip, Trips and Falls	Participants and General Public: Head contact Strains, Sprains and Breaks	All members to be briefed at the beginning of activity Care to be taken at launching/egress points to reduce the possibility of slips/trips while entering/exiting boats	Members briefed at start of trip to be aware	Trip Leader and all coaches / leaders present on trip	On location safety brief	
Manual Handling	Participants and Volunteers Musculoskeletal harms	Members briefed on good manual handling techniques for boats/kit. Tying boats onto cars is left to the discretion of individual car owners Members to be advised to share carrying boats/kit where possible	Members briefed at start of trip to be aware	Trip Leader and all coaches / leaders present on trip	On location safety brief	

Risk Assessment Shropshire Paddlesport

Hypothermia	Participants and Volunteers Heatstroke Sunburn	Members briefed at start of trip, participants advised via booking form on kit requirements Leader carries 1 st aid and emergency shelter	Dynamic assessment on the day, appropriate action may be required	Trip Leader	Prior day and on day	
Hyperthermia	Participants and Volunteers Heatstroke Sunburn	Members briefed at induction, participants advised via booking form of kit requirements Leader carries 1 st aid and emergency shelter	Dynamic assessment on the day, appropriate action may be required	Trip Leader	Prior day and on day	
Change in Weather Conditions	All Participants	Members suitably equipped for prevailing conditions and groups carrying sufficient supplies to cope Wind/wave heights to be monitored to stay within the competence of the group	24 hrs before trip, assessment to be made if the trip needs to be cancelled / postponed. Further dynamic assessment prior to start and during trip	Trip Leader	On day	
Lightning strike	All Participants	If thunder and lightning are audible/visible, there is a risk of a lightning strike. The safest option is to check in advance and not to get on the water if thunder and lightning are forecast	Dynamic assessment ongoing during trip, safe exits identified	Trip Leader	On day	
Pre-existing medical conditions	All Participants	Understanding who is on the trip and their needs.	Emergency contact details collected on the day of the trip. Participants requested to disclose any medical conditions in confidence to the Trip Leader(s)	Trip Leader	On day	

Risk Assessment Shropshire Paddlesport



Safeguarding Failure	All Participants	Compliance with British Canoeing Safeguarding policies and procedures	Action to be taken by coaches and leaders if required	All coaches / leaders	On day	
Illness & fatigue	All Participants	Paddlers to inform leader	Correct supervision and group control by leader,. Dynamic risk assessment. First aid kit, food and water, evacuation procedures and assistance identified.	Trip Leader	On day	
Equipment: unserviceable	Paddlers on trip	Leader to check at start of trip. Paddler cannot paddle without serviceable equipment	Basic repair kit carried by Leader	Trip Leader	On Day	

Office use only (to be completed by a risk assessment checker if selected for sampling)

Checked by:		Position:		Date:	
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Risk Assessment Shropshire Paddlesport

