



Risk Assessment/Hazard Identification

Ref:	RA 05		
Risk Assessment Title:	Conwy	Revision No:	1
Specific Location:	Ysbyty-Ifan & A5 Section Grid Reference: SH842488 Access SH810536 Egress	Date of next review	28/3/25
Description of the activity:	Recreational kayak trip		
Associated Documents:	https://youtu.be/pbK-fX3Mgzk?si=LTxctTz2IglXddjz		
Risk Assessment Completed by:	Name: Gus Venter	Signed: GVenter	Date: 28/03/2024

Likelihood Rating Key:		Severity Rating Key:		Severity Rating						
				Likelihood Rating	5	4	3	2	1	
5	Frequent	5	Multiple or Single Fatality		5	25	20	15	10	5
4	Probable	4	Major Injury or Major Damage to Property		4	20	16	12	8	4
3	Occasional	3	Injury or Significant Damage to Property		3	15	12	9	6	3
2	Remote	2	Injury or Damage to Property		2	10	8	6	4	2
1	Improbable	1	Minor Injury		1	5	4	3	2	1

Residual Risk Rating Matrix Key:	
12 – 25:	Unacceptable level of risk. Risk level MUST be reduced.
5 – 11:	Risks acceptable where principles of prevention have been applied and control measures implemented to reduce risk so far as is reasonably practicable. Activity, operation or works creating the hazard and risk must be supervised to ensure continued effectiveness and compliance with the control measures.

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1 – 4: Acceptable level of risk. Risk associated with the hazard is of an acceptable level. Continual reviews to confirm hazards and risks remain adequately controlled.

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			L	S	IRR			L	S	RRR
Drowning / Entrapment	Paddlers, Spectators Others	Fatality	5	5	25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Experienced paddler to be on the water. - PFD must be worn when paddling or when on the bank. - Participants must be able to swim a minimum of 25M. - Spectators will remain on the path running alongside the river. - Bank support / on the water support from competent person - Participants to have previously attended club sessions and demonstrated a successful capsized drill. 	Participants Spectators trip leaders / support	1	5	5
Hypothermia (cold)	Paddlers, Spectators	Fatality, Major Injury, Minor Injury	3	4	12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Minimise submersion in the water. - Reduce the length of the session/trip or stay close to a safe location. - Keep yourself well fuelled with high carbohydrate foods and stay hydrated. - Dress for immersion in cold water - insulating/thermal clothing including a wetsuit or dry suit, capable of protecting you while in the water. - Dress in layers using synthetic fabrics such as polyester fleece or base layers. - Carry spare dry clothing including a waterproof/windproof jacket or canoe top. You are also advised to carry survival bag or thermal blanket, some food, a drink and a mobile phone. - Wear a warm hat that will stay on your head in the water. 50% of heat loss is through your head. <p>Know your own physical capabilities and limitations, don't overestimate them</p>	Paddlers, Birmingham Canoe Club	3	1	3

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Hyperthermia (hot)	Paddlers, Spectators	Fatality, Major Injury, Minor Injury	3	4	12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - drink more cold drinks. - wear light-coloured, loose clothing. - avoid the sun between 11am and 3pm. - avoid excess alcohol. - avoid extreme exercise. 	Paddlers Birmingham Canoe Club	3	1	3
River Levels	Paddlers	Fatality, Major Injury, Minor injury	3	5	15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - River level to be monitored using online application such as river app, visual inspection to be carried out upon arrival at the location. - Awareness to be raised on the importance of river levels as good practice 	Paddler Trip leader / support	2	2	4
Sprains, Strains And Soft Tissue Injuries	Paddlers,	Minor Injury	3	3	9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Warm up to be carried out before exercise takes place. - Correct manual handling technique to be used. 	Paddlers Birmingham Canoe Club	2	1	2
Slips Trips and Falls	Paddlers, Spectators, Public	Fatality, Major Injury, Minor injury	3	5	15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Boats, paddles, and equipment to be stored correctly at the end of a session. - Boats and paddles stored away from footpaths when not in use (when getting changed at the start / end of a session). - No running. 	Paddlers Birmingham Canoe Club	2	2	4
Damaged Equipment	Paddlers	Major Injury, Minor Injury	3	5	15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Equipment to be inspected annually for any damage and recorded on the equipment register. - Paddlers to report any damage to equipment using the reporting log or via the QR code / website form. 	Paddlers Birmingham Canoe Club	2	2	4
Impact Or Collisions	Paddlers	Major Injury, Minor Injury	2	4	8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Duty of care for each other while on the water (safe personal space). - Right of way to be given to powered crafts (located on approach to rapids) - Helmets to be worn while on the river 	Paddlers Birmingham Canoe Club	2	1	2
General Public	Paddlers, Spectators,	Confrontation, Unwanted Attention	2	4	8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Designated access points to be used. 	Birmingham Canoe Club.	2	1	2

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	Others						paddlers			
Access: Opposite Car park the other side of bridge at Ysbyty- Ifan Egress: Left side of River Conway, well signposted at Dinas before the Conway Falls section.	Paddlers, Spectators, Public	Damage to property / people	2	2	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Park courteously in line with the current parking restrictions and law. - Check the route is clear. - Safely offload craft and equipment being mindful of pedestrians and vehicles (ask for assistance when required). - Off load the vehicle from the pavement where possible. - Carry the craft and equipment, making sure the footpaths are left clear. - The launch may have motorboats / vehicles present at time's communication between users is required. 	Paddlers	5	2	10
Ysbyty-Ifan Section Grade 2-3+ (Hargreaves Folly depending on river level) Rapids. Route: Hargreaves Folly; take Left side drop as the channel is shorter than the right side. Boof off rock on the left side before drop, you may need a "Low brace" to assist into deep water. Note: main danger is "Overhanging" branches, particularly in the Spring, Summer & Autumn months.	Paddlers,	Fatality, Major Injury, Minor Injury	4	4	16	Check Environment Agency or Rain chasers for Current River levels at Llanerfyl for appropriate levels Correct supervision and group control by instructor, safety briefing	Paddlers Birmingham Canoe Club	4	2	8

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A5 –Penmachno Bridge Section Grade 3-4 (Bryn- Bras Falls) A5 -1st Bridge: drops & wave trains, "S" bends, left side for passing through bridge. 1st Bridge – 2nd Bridge: as before but there was a tree on the opposite side of bridge, managed to "Bounce" over 2nd Bridge – 3rd Bridge: as previous, take left side route. 3rd Bridge: "The Cannon" start right to left, straighten up can central right position, be aware of "Plume" in 1.3 level as current as it can push to the right. Find eddy on right. Bryn- Bras Falls – start right to left onto "S" bend move between rocks, straighten up keep tight to right side then turn about 5m. But if you miss there is another gap, straighten up and head down succession of mini drops, big eddy on the left. Bryn- Bras Falls – Egress, as previous grade 3, drops, wave trains	Paddlers,	Fatality, Major Injury, Minor Injury	4	4	16	Correct supervision and group control by instructor, safety brief	Paddlers Birmingham Canoe Club	2	2	4
Weather & Environment	Paddlers, Spectators	Major Injury, Minor Injury	3	3	9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Weather to be checked prior to starting the session. - extreme heat - will require additional drinking water and monitoring of paddlers. Preference for early morning and late evening paddling avoiding the midday sun. 	Paddlers Birmingham Canoe Club	2	2	4

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						<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - extreme cold - only correctly equipped paddlers to be allowed onto the water. Dry suit and warm clothing will be required. - lightning – all paddlers to make their way off the water as quickly as possible. - strong winds – to be assessed as to cancel the session or continue 	Club			
Medical Conditions	Paddlers, Spectators, Others	Unfit to paddle / drive	2	4	8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Paddlers to report if they are currently on medication. - Birmingham Canoe Club to support and assist in safety of person. 	Paddlers, Birmingham Canoe Club	2	2	4
Cross contamination	Paddlers	Contaminating water source	5	2	10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Clean boats and equipment prior to entering. - Rinse kit prior to leaving or putting kit back into storage. 	Paddlers	5	1	5
Water Quality	Paddlers,	Major Injury, Minor Injury	3	4	12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Check Local Authority website for information on algae blooms and Weil’s disease, H1N1 etc 	Paddlers Birmingham Canoe Club	3	2	6
Overhanging trees or Strainers	Paddlers,	Fatality, Major Injury, Minor Injury	4	3	12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Paddlers to keep away from the vegetation at the edge of the river to minimise the risk of entrapment 	Paddlers Birmingham Canoe Club	2	2	4
Swimmers	Paddlers	Major Injury, Minor Injury	3	4	12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Experienced paddlers to assist in rescuing swimmers and safely getting them to the side prior to rescuing kit and equipment. - Throwlines to be available and used when required 	Paddlers Birmingham Canoe Club	2	2	4
Fisherman; various spots below & above rapids	Paddlers	Line & hook causing facial injuries				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dynamic risk assessment. Correct supervision and group control by instructor, safety brief 	Paddlers. Birmingham Canoe Club	2	2	4

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Bridge Stanchion	Paddlers	Avoid paddling in front of bridge Stanchions, as this may lead to a capsize	4	3	12	- Correct supervision and group control by instructor, safety brief. Dynamic risk assessment	Paddlers. Birmingham Canoe Club	2	2	4

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