

Risk assessment 2026-v2

Name of activity, event, and location	Avon Scout & Guide Canoe Club -Benjamin Perry Boathouse		20 March 2026	Name of person doing this risk assessment	Margarita Felixberger
		Date of next review	20 March 2027		

What could go wrong? What hazard have you identified? What are the risks from it?	Who is at risk?	What are you going to do about it? How are the risks already controlled? What extra controls are needed? How will they be communicated to young people and adults and remain inclusive to all needs?	Review & revise What has changed that needs to be thought about and controlled?
<p>A hazard is something that may cause harm or damage. The risk is the harm that may occur from the hazard.</p>	For example: young people, adult volunteers, visitors	<p>Controls are ways of making the activity safer by removing or reducing the risk. For example, you may use a different piece of equipment or you might change the way you do the activity.</p>	Keep checking throughout the activity in case you need to change what you're doing or even stop the activity.
<p>Hazard: Capsize and Entrapment in boats Risk: Drowning</p>	Participants & helpers	<p>Correctly fitting buoyancy aids to be worn Appropriate participant/coach ratios for environment Coaches to have correct permits/qualifications and be practiced in performing rescues Coach to be aware of non-swimmers – who must wear lifejackets and be supervised according to POR rules Boats correctly fitted for participants Fittings in boats secure Loose clothing, laces and other snag hazards to be properly secured</p>	
<p>Hazard: Wet clothing Risk: Hypothermia</p>	Participants	<p>Appropriate clothing worn for expected conditions Monitor participants condition during activity Appropriate emergency equipment available Lead coach to cancel the session if weather is inappropriate (as per adverse weather section).</p>	
<p>Hazard: Adverse weather Risks: Difficult group control. Hypothermia or Hyperthermia</p>	Participants	<p>Weather forecast interpreted and assessed Lead coach to cancel session if necessary Dynamic risk assessment Suitable clothing Drinks and emergency resources available</p>	
<p>Hazard: Moving and handling boats & equipment Risk: Injury</p>	Participants and helpers	<p>Use sufficient people to share loads Use good lifting and manual handling techniques. Coordinate the moving of many boats or loading/unloading trailers Care taken when emptying swamped boats Check all boats are fitted with suitable buoyancy</p>	

You can find more information in the Safety checklist for leaders and at scouts.org.uk/safety

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<p>Hazard: Sharp objects and slippery ground around boathouse and jetty Risk: Injury</p>	Participants & helpers	<p>Suitable footwear to be worn at all times Check areas for sharp objects, trip hazards and slippery surfaces No running and care to be taken on uneven surfaces Wear buoyancy aids while on the jetty.</p>	
<p>Hazard: Water quality Risk: Waterborne diseases</p>	Participants and helpers	<p>Water quality to be assessed via Bristol city council website or harbour master's report. Cover cuts and grazes with waterproof dressings Wash hands before eating and shower/bath after. Brief participants and write to parents/participants on booking, of symptoms and actions associated with Weil's Disease.</p>	
<p>Hazard: Collisions with other river users Risk: Injury or damage to equipment</p>	Participants	<p>Brief participants of hazard Monitor and assess activities of other users Modify activity if necessary</p>	
<p>Hazard: Participants' Medical Conditions Risk: Harm to participants.</p>	Participants	<p>Coaches to know of any medical conditions Management of condition to be agreed with Leader Coaches to have access to phone Leader to have list of participant contacts</p>	
<p>Hazard: Proximity of other paddlers during activities Risk: Injuries through collision with boats or paddles</p>	Participants & helpers	<p>Helmets should be worn. There may be exceptions at the coaches' discretion, for example with adult groups or more skilled Explorer groups touring the harbour. Games organised to keep risk of paddle impacts low Getting in and out of boats supervised to avoid capsize and finger entrapments</p>	
<p>Hazard: Impact with motor vehicle Risk: Injury</p>	Participants and helpers	<p>Ensure vehicles parked and activities placed so that participants are unlikely to be hit by vehicles</p>	
<p>Hazard: Young people using changing rooms Risk: safeguarding issues</p>	Participants and helpers	<p>Young persons are expected to come changed for the activity to avoid use of changing rooms before activity. Accompanying leader to supervise from lobby area if changing rooms used after activity. Hall hirers advised to use downstairs toilet while changing rooms in use</p>	
<p>Hazard: Group Management Risk: Large group sizes make group management difficult</p>	Participants and helpers	<p>Scouting sessions will be run according to maximum numbers specified by the permit scheme (max of 8 craft or 12 paddlers) unless the permit holder has more stringent limitations applied to their permit. For Girlguiding groups, a BC qualified coach, who is assisted by a BC Paddlesport Instructor with a site-specific sign-off by ASGCC, may look after a group of 16 Girlguiding members in the area between and including the pontoon and Bathurst basin.</p>	

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<p>Hazard: Locks, Sluices, Weirs and Floating Reed Beds</p> <p>Risk: entrapment and drowning</p>	<p>Participants and helpers</p>	<p>Coaches to know the dangers of locks, weirs and sluices and follow the guidance provided by Paddle UK, the Canal & River Trust and as directed by the harbour master.</p> <p>Coaches to be aware of the location of these water control features in the docks.</p> <p>Especially the Underfall Sluice used to scour the docks.</p> <p>They must not enter locks and stay away from them, weirs and sluices; portaging around them if travelling beyond</p> <p>All taking part to be aware of the dangers involved and if going to be encountered as part of the activity.Coaches to know the dangers of locks, weirs, sluices and floating reed beds. Coaches to be aware of the location of these water control and environmental features in the docks. Especially, in Bristol floating harbour, reed beds and the Underfall Sluice used to scour the docks. Follow the guidance provided by Paddle UK, the Canal & River Trust and any direction(s) from the harbour master.</p> <p>Do not enter locks and stay away from other hazards, portaging around them if travelling beyond. Maintain a sufficient distance from floating reed beds so that there is no risk, if someone capsizes of them coming up underneath when attempting to surface.</p> <p>Participants taking part should be made aware of any dangers involved that may be encountered as part of the activity.</p>	
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