

Risk Assessment: Kayaking Trip on River Itchen, Southampton

Group: Small group of beginners

Location: River Itchen, Southampton

Date last reviewed: 24. April 2024

Assessor: James Wardle

Reviewed by: Caroline Smedley

Hazard	Who Might Be Harmed	Risk	Existing Controls	Risk Level	Further Action Required
Capsizing	All participants	Cold water shock, panic, drowning	Buoyancy aids, safety briefing, trained instructor present	Medium	Ensure self-rescue/buddy system is understood
Strong currents / tides	All participants	Loss of control, collision, separation	Tide check, planned route, close supervision	Medium	Monitor tides and adapt as needed where possible schedule beginners sessions at high tide
Inexperienced paddlers	All participants	Poor technique, fatigue, panic	Basic instruction, sheltered route, regular checks	Medium	Shorter trip, offer rests, encourage hydration
Weather conditions	All participants	Hypothermia, heat exhaustion, poor visibility	Weather check, suitable clothing, sun protection typically paddlers will not use wetsuits or dry suits but are encouraged to have a change of clothing in the boat	Medium	Postpone trip in bad weather
Obstacles in water	All participants	Collision, injury, capsizing	Route planning, lookout maintained particularly above mansbridge	Medium	Brief group on avoidance and alerting the leader

Medical emergencies	Individuals with conditions	Allergic reactions, asthma, etc.	First aid kit, trained first aider, medical details collected	Medium	Emergency plan, phone carried
Getting lost/separated	Participants (esp. vulnerable)	Stress, increased danger	Group stays together, buddy system, headcounts. Everyone encouraged to bring Phone and Whistle	Low	Emergency contacts available, keep group tight
Slips/trips at launch/landing	All participants	Minor injuries	Stable entry/exit point, proper footwear, assistance given	Low	Demonstrate proper launch and landing techniques
Wildlife (e.g. swans, insects)	All participants	Bites, aggression, allergic reaction	Avoid Swan nesting areas, awareness, antihistamines if required	Low	Educate on wildlife interaction and respectful distances
Equipment failure	All participants	Stranding, injury	Pre-checks, spare parts, repair kit and logging system,, quality gear regularly renewed	Low	Train leaders in basic repairs