

St Denys Boat Club

Risk Assessment Sailing Between the Bridges

**Priory Avenue St Denys
SO17 2LT**

**Date 20th July 2024
Updated 6th January 2026**

Assessment carried out by: Stephen Everitt

Reviewed by:

This Risk Assessment is reviewed on a regular basis to ensure activities and risks have not changed and in any event not later than January 2027.

Activities:

Sailing between the bridges. This is an organised club event. A number of sailing dinghies will be towed past the railway bridge where there is better wind and water for sailing. A group of club members and occasionally guests of various sailing experience will be escorted by more experienced club members, with one of the dayboats used as a safety boat. A further dayboat will be anchored to facilitate crew changeovers.

The event will be modified or postponed, if weather is not suitable.

Notes:

All persons to wear life jackets or buoyancy aids. Lead boat to carry, mobile phones, 1st aid kit and if available a handheld VHF, knife for cutting lines if required, throwline.

Briefing of all involved to be carried out before start.

Normally Kittiwake will be used as the lead boat and anchored. Tern used as safety boat, but may change dependant on circumstances.

| Risk | Likelihood | Severity | Persons at Risk | Mitigation | Revised likelihood |
|--|------------|-------------|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------|
| Drowning | Low | High | Everyone, particularly inexperienced | Everyone to wear Buoyancy aids or Life Jackets, Safety boat manned by experienced personnel to be available to provide assistance if required. | Low |
| Injuries from Booms, Ropes under tension, trapping, impact, Collisions | Moderate | Low to Mod | Everyone, particularly inexperienced | Suitable boats to be selected for the conditions and participants experience. Launching and rigging to be carried out by experienced people. Helmsmen to be vigilant, particularly when tacking gybing, bringing boats in and out. | Mod |
| Slips trips and falls | Moderate | Low | All | Ensure inexperienced only taken out by experienced people. Brief everyone to keep a good lookout. Brief everyone to keep hands / limbs inside boat and not to try and fend off collision Warn of risk areas, edge of slipway and pontoons. Children to be supervised at all times. The club is likely to be busy. Take care when transferring between boats, ensure they are secure and balanced at all times. | Low |
| Immersion / cold | Low | Mod | All | Activities and boats to be chosen as appropriate for the conditions. All persons to be dressed appropriately. All activities are within short distance of club and warm shower facilities. Anyone who falls in or shows signs of becoming too cold to be taken ashore immediately and warmed up. | Low |
| Entrapment | Low | Mod to High | All | Sailing craft, ropes to be managed to reduce risk. Participants to be briefed on actions in event of capsized. Safety craft and supervision. | Low |
| Fire | Low | Mod | All | Club has multiple exits and fire alarm, Non engine boats low risk. Outboards, use in conjunction with manufacturers instructions, | Low |

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|---------------------------------|-----|---------------|-----|---|
| Contaminated water | Low | Mod | All | <p>turn off fuel when not in use. Do not refuel hot engine or on the water.</p> <p>Be aware of the signs of Weils disease. Any cuts grazes to be covered on water. Any injuries incurred during event to be disinfected and covered or otherwise treated as appropriate. Seek medical advice if required.</p> |
| Operation of Safety craft | Low | Mod | All | <p>Any motorised craft to be operated by competent persons only, use kill cords at all times, take care when approaching persons in the water, STOP engine or disconnect battery when assisting someone in the water.</p> |
| Pre existing Medical conditions | Low | Low to Severe | All | <p>Individuals to be responsible for managing their own health conditions, and understanding their own limitations.</p> |
| Protection of children | Low | Mod | All | <p>Under 18's only allowed if accompanied by a parent or guardian, all members to be vigilant of risks to very young children, comply with safeguarding policy, this event is not really suitable for those under 10.</p> |

Note: in case of Emergency a nominated person should have access to a mobile phone and be aware of postcode and location details for summoning assistance. Club is **SO17 2LT**. In event of need to get someone ashore urgently, the club or Priory Road Slipway are the best locations.

Priory Road Slipway: what 3 words location; **train.joins.weeks**