

Waddow Hall - Risk Assessment (page 1)

Activity: Canoeing/Kayaking

Date: August 2009

Review carried out by: Cameron Downing (SAI) and Bev Whiteside (Y&AM)

Activity	Hazard / Danger	Severity: High Medium Low	Likelihood : Very Likely Fairly Likely Possible Unlikely Very Unlikely	Control measures	Risk assessment after Control measures: High Medium Low	Review date
Lifting and carrying canoes/Kayak to launch	Injury or Damage to Canoe	High	Fairly Likely	Minimum 4-5 persons carry canoes (2/3 persons for kayaks). Participants advised to bend knees/straight back to lift (Correct carrying procedure). Walk slowly. A minimum age of 10 (physically large enough to carry boats)	Low	Jan 2010
Fall into water from canoe/Kayak, capsize	Drowning (all types) and Shock, Weils Disease, other water born disease/bacteria	High	Very unlikely	Buoyancy aids worn. All participants able to swim 50 metres. Min age 10 years. Qualified instructor on water at all times. Instructor to participant ratio in place. Adult on bank carries mobile phone. Instructor also in radio (in waterproof pouch) contact with Hall Office. Details are issued to participants prior to visit, with advice on disease symptoms and informed to contact the doctor if displaying flu symptoms or feeling unwell.	Low	Jan 2010
Getting cold in water and wind	Hypothermia	High	Very unlikely	All participants carry full change of clothes. Instructor holds appropriate first aid qualification and can recognise signs of hypothermia and takes participants off water at once. Session stopped in high wind, thunder or very heavy rain.	Low	Jan 2010
Participants get hit by paddles	Injury to body	Medium	Fairly Likely	Participants advised to take care and spread out when practicing paddling. As well as wearing buoyancy aids and helmets	Low	Jan 2010

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paddle sport or other safety equipment fails	Drowning or bodily injury	High	Very unlikely	Any canoe damage reported immediately and canoe taken out of use until repaired/replaced. All canoes checked by instructor 3 monthly and records kept. All craft have buoyancy bags.	Low	Jan 2010
Conducting paddle sports in high or fast water	Drowning Hypothermia Serious injury	High	Unlikely	Canoeing sessions do not take place when river too high. All instructors are trained to assess the specific indications of whether the River is safe to run sessions on.	Low	Jan 2010
Participants separates from the Instructor	Drowning Serious Injury	High	Unlikely	Group told boundaries, instructor on water at all times. Instructor trained on recognising the signs of when the river becomes unsafe. Also trained to assign there own personal and group boundaries of where they will not paddle on the river.	Low	Jan 2010
Fall into water from the bankside	Drowning/Injury	High	Very Unlikely	All participants must be able to swim 50 metres unaided. Any person near the water must be wearing a helmet, buoyancy aid and supervised by the qualified instructor	Low	Jan 2010
Participants inexperienced, and new to the activity	Fear/Freeze and incapable of controlling the craft	High	Possible	Qualified instructor, trained in dealing with uncooperative participants, appropriate equipment is given to that particular person. Adult/Leader is on the bankside to assist when the participant is of the water	Low	Jan 2010
Main Road and bridge path to the canoe base	Injury from traffic along the road	High	Possible	Group advised to set of early and walk single file facing oncoming traffic across the bridge, supervised by there leader	Low	Jan 2010

Personal safety whilst on the water	Injury to head	High	Possible	Anyone entering the water; including participants, staff, group leaders, must wear helmet correctly whilst the session is in progress and be under the supervision of a qualified instructor.	Low	Jan 2010
Use of L1 (UKCC) coaches	Serious injury	High	Very Unlikely	Before they undertake leading sessions on their own they must have completed a CRB, First Aid training (min 8 hours) and have been onsite trained and assessed. They must seek advice on any matter they are unsure of including whether the river is viable to operate on and must be able to contact a supervising coach (a BCU old style qualified coach)	Low	Jan 2010
Conducting Paddle sports in adverse weather conditions	Serious injury/Drowning	High	Very Unlikely	All instructors are trained on recognising the conditions of the environment and assess whether it is safe to run a session. Advice can be sought from the head of paddle sports.	Low	Jan 2010