

Risk Assessment for Sheltered Water Paddle

Lower River Dee – Farndon to Chester



Liverpool Canoe Club Date of Risk Assessment: 15/11/2025			Name of Risk Assessor: John Cooke Club Safety Officer: Kevin Corcoran / Keith Steer		Review Date: Reviewed annually and as required by the club safety officer. (eg following any reported Incidents)
What are the hazards?	Who might be harmed?	Risk?	What action do you need to take to control the risks?	Who needs to carry out the action?	When is the action needed by?
Cold water immersion	Paddler and Coach	High Risk of Hypothermia, shock	Wearing suitable clothing, such as Wetsuits/drysuits; pre-session briefing; short immersion durations; warm-up breaks. Supply of hot drinks may be an option	Coach or organiser	Prior to entering the water
Weather/Wind/Rain/poor visibility	All	This section is grade 1, moving water, and the River Dee is subject to heavy rain and flood conditions, making it unsuitable during floods. Wind -Increased Drift, difficulty paddling Rain – poor visibility, hypothermia risk Sun – Dehydration. Sunburn	Check river Levels before the trip, and if the river is very high or above bank full, the trip will be cancelled. Very high (Huge) is 1.2m or above on the Corwen Gauge. https://riverpredictor.uk/dee_horseshoe_falls_llangollen Check Forecast, choose a sheltered route Ensure bright clothing, group spacing weather limits Sunscreen, Hats, Hydration breaks	Organiser/coach/Leader	Prior to launch / Previous day and the morning of launch
Capsize/ Collision/ Entrapment Fatigue	All	Panic, injury, separation from group With other paddlers or fixed objects Under a boat or in vegetation Reduced decision-making, slower reactions Pinning on Bridge Arches with moving water.	Rescue practice, buddy system, coach nearby Spacing, route planning, speed control Safety briefing: avoid dense vegetation areas, especially overhanging trees Regular breaks, monitor group Safety briefing: given a wide berth.	Leader and or Coach	During Safety Briefing, Ongoing during paddle
Egress Difficulty Other Water Users Wildlife Lost Paddler	All	Slippery banks, Steep exit/egress Boats, swimmers, anglers Swans, Nesting Birds Separation from Group	Pre-Check Exits, assist Group Awareness briefing, use of visible clothing Avoid Nesting area, maintain distance head counts, visual contact, emergency plan	Leader & Coach	Prior to and Ongoing
Group Detail		Group size 1:8 or 1:6, depending on craft and Group ability.	Ensure the paddler's ability	Organiser / Leader / Coach	Prior to the actual trip