



Salisbury Canoe Club Risk Assessment

Venue: River Avon (River Park Rapids)	Risk assessor: Will Sparrow	Date:24/02/2026
Activity: Evening and Weekend Paddles		

This risk assessment covers paddling at the Salisbury River Park in the Long Stay Central Car Park. Salisbury Canoe Club's qualified members have assessed the section to be Grade 2 whitewater. This rises to Grade 3- when in flood, due to the downstream hazards and continuous nature of the section.

Hazards and control measures applicable to all activities			
What are the hazards?	To who?	Is the risk adequately controlled and how?	What further action is necessary?
Manual handling of canoes/kayaks leading to injury due to poor manual handling technique.	All paddlers, Students, Coaches, Bank-based helpers, Parents	Appropriate lifting and carrying technique should be used to move canoes/kayaks between cars and the get-in, from the get-out back to the get-in, and to manoeuvre boats at the get in. Assistance should be sought if necessary. Is risk adequately controlled: yes	
Dangerous/unsuitable/poorly fitting equipment leading to injury or entrapment	All paddlers, Students Coaches	Coach ¹ /leader ² /experienced paddlers ³ to examine equipment prior to use to identify loose fittings, sharp edges, entrapment potential, poorly fitted buoyancy. If required, simple repairs must be effected if possible. If not, equipment must not be used and must be reported to a committee member or coach. Personal equipment should also be subject to the same checks when used for club activities.	Replace / repair equipment as necessary

¹ Coaches are current PaddleUK qualified coaches that the SCC head coach deems competent to run independent sessions under this risk assessment.

² Leaders are those paddlers with current PaddleUK leadership awards.

³ Experienced paddlers are those deemed competent by the SCC head coach to assist with sessions.



		For coached/led sessions, the coach/leader will check personal equipment (helmet, buoyancy aid, spraydeck) for damage and correct fit prior to getting on the water. For all other activities, paddlers are responsible for completion of these checks. The use of a buddy system is recommended to complete these checks for each other. Is risk adequately controlled: yes	
Weather conditions affecting safety of group and classification of water	All paddlers, Students, Coaches	Weather conditions must be appropriate for the activity. Session cancelled if there is excessive wind or extreme low temperature or if water level is unsuitable for planned activity. Coach/leader/experienced paddler performs dynamic risk assessment prior to the activity. Is risk adequately controlled: yes	Coaches/leaders /experienced paddlers to undertake dynamic risk assessments
Minor injuries. (blisters, cuts, muscle/joint injury, sunburn)	All paddlers, Students Coaches	All new paddlers should be given a location-specific safety brief and should be advised to complete an appropriate warm up activity. All paddlers must wear a helmet for all paddling activities. Water shoes or similar <u>must</u> be worn at this location due to the risk of litter/broken glass etc on the river bank and in the water. A first aid kit must be available (this can be in a car in car park). Coaches/leaders must be first aid trained, and it is recommended that experienced paddlers should undertake first aid training. Participants should provide details of existing medical conditions to the coach/leader. Is risk adequately controlled: yes	None
Hypothermia	All paddlers, Students, Coaches	Coaches / leaders / experienced paddlers should be aware of, and watch out for, the signs and symptoms of hypothermia. Coaches/leaders/experienced paddlers undertake dynamic risk assessment to judge additional controls that would be necessary for the prevailing conditions. Paddlers will not be allowed to take part in an activity if personal kit is not suitable for the conditions.	Coaches/leaders/exp erperienced paddlers to undertake dynamic risk assessments



		Is risk adequately controlled: yes	
Infection or other illness associated with water quality (Weil's disease, GI infection)	All paddlers, Students, Coaches	Cuts should be covered with waterproof plasters before paddling. Hands should be washed after activity and before eating. Participants briefed on signs/symptoms of common paddlesport illness e.g. GI infection. Participants briefed on signs/symptoms of Weil's disease. Is risk adequately controlled: yes	None
Other water users, members of the public and wildlife – fishermen - swans (possible damage to SCC reputation)	All paddlers, Students, Coach, Members of the public	Participants briefed on presence of other water users as appropriate. Other water users and members of the public should be treated politely and courteously. The footpath and cycle path alongside the river must not be obstructed by boats and care should be taken when manoeuvring boats between the car park and get-in so as not to obstruct or collide with members of the public. Paddlers should be as discrete as possible if getting changed in the car park. Where possible paddlers will arrive already changed. Take care not to disturb wildlife, give all swans on the river a wide berth. Is risk adequately controlled: yes	None
Accidents at the get-in , minor injuries/swims due to awkward get-in	All paddlers, Students, Coaches	Care should be taken when getting in or out. Assistance or demonstration can be given if requested.	None
Independent paddling Whitewater paddling involves some degree of independent paddling, paddlers may be out of line of sight for some periods. In winter this also involves paddling along a poorly lit stretch of the river.	All paddlers, Students, Coaches	All paddlers should be deemed competent (to at least PaddleUK Whitewater award or equivalent standard) by the SCC head coach, or the coach in charge of the session, before undertaking paddling at the river park. Care should be taken to avoid collisions in the dark, personal lights are mandated. It is recommended that paddlers should paddle in groups of not less than 3. For coached sessions, SCC will operate within PaddleUK's Standards For Deployment ratios Coach performs a dynamic risk assessment to identify any requirement for additional, on water, support.	Dynamic risk assessment carried out as necessary



		Is risk adequately controlled: yes	
Capsize and entrapment	All paddlers, Students, Coaches	All paddlers should be deemed competent (to at least PaddleUK Whitewater Award or equivalent standard) by the SCC head coach, or the coach in charge of the session. Is risk adequately controlled: yes	None
Entrapment in overhanging trees / protruding roots / underwater objects	All paddlers, Students, Coaches	All paddlers should be deemed competent (to at least PaddleUK Whitewater Award or equivalent standard) by the SCC head coach, or the coach in charge of the session. Paddlers should be briefed to avoid entrapment hazards. Specific mention is to be made of the low bridge downstream of the get-out. The river should be regularly inspected for entrapment hazards. Is risk adequately controlled: yes	None
Drowning	All paddlers, Students, Coaches	All persons taking part in river park sessions must wear a suitable buoyancy aid. It is SCC policy that participants should be able to swim ~25 m. See “ Capsize and entrapment ” above. Coaches must be first aid trained and able to administer CPR. There is no specific emergency phone at this site. At least one paddler in the group should carry a mobile phone. All coaches/leaders/experienced paddlers must be aware of the SCC Emergency Procedure (Flow Chart) process. Is risk adequately controlled: yes	None
Traffic , the meeting place for this activity is a public car park, potential for traffic accident	All paddlers, Students, Coaches Helpers Parents	All persons at risk should be aware of and avoid traffic in the car park. Use zebra crossings where practical.	None
Poor Lighting , during winter evening sessions the river park is not well lit. This increases	All paddlers, Students, Coaches	All persons on water must wear a light on their buoyancy aid. Participants will be briefed on swim protocol, including notifying the paddler running the activity.	None



the potential for an incident to go unnoticed.		SCC will provide floodlights to illuminate the river. These will be recharged when necessary, and stored at the clubhouse. No nighttime paddling is to take place without these lights.	
Environmental damage , the river park is home to diverse flora and fauna. SCC supports PaddleUK's Clear Access Clear Waters campaign,	River bank and planting	Get in location will be varied, with reinforced sections above the old weir being prioritised where possible. Participants will be reminded regularly to - Avoid getting out on gravel sections - Avoid muddy and waterlogged areas to enable plant regrowth - Minimise walking on bank areas where practical, avoiding trampling plants and using designated pathways	None

Risk assessment review record

This risk assessment must be reviewed annually, if there is a significant change to the hazards identified or if there is an incident that requires its review and amendment.

Reviews should be recorded below:

Date	Rviewer (Print and Sign)	Comments (reason for review / amendments)	New risk assessment issued (Y/N)?
24/02/2026	W Sparrow	First Issue/Formalisation of previous Dynamic Risk Assessment (SCC River Park V1)	Y

The undersigned have read and understood this risk assessment and agree to abide by its principles.

[illegible]