



Risk Assessment

River Clearance of obstacles/obstructions in advance of Stour Descent: Paddling between Sturminster Newton Mill DT10 2DQ and Bryanston School Boathouse DT11 0PX. Persons Undertaking Event: Leader/ organiser and participants. Nearest Access Points: Emergency vehicles can gain access to the river at Sturminster Newton Mill DT10 2DQ, Fiddleford Mill DT10 2BX, Hammoon Weir DT10 2DA, Haywards Bridge DT11 0QY, Durweston Mill DT11 0QD and Bryanston School (Boathouse) DT11 0PX. Nearest Accident and Emergency Department: Dorset County Hospital, Williams Avenue, Dorchester DT1 2JY. Assessment completed by: Tony Fowler (Club Secretary), Rob Mooring (Club Safety Officer) of the management committee of the Stour Valley Canoe Club Date Assessment Created/Completed: 4 th August 2018 Date of Next Review: see below	Leader/organiser:	
	Other river leaders	
	Emergency contacts: Dorset County Hospital South Western Ambulance Service	01305 251150 01305 269969

HAZARD	RISK BEFORE CONTROL MEASURES	PERSONS AT RISK	CONTROL MEASURES	COMMENTS ACTIONS	RESIDUAL RISK RATING
Accidental capsize of Kayak, Canoe or SUP and subsequent immersion in water	Drowning, Cold Water Shock, Hypothermia, Exhaustion and Physical Injury- head injury, broken bones, lacerations, sprains and strains	All Participants	Buoyancy aids will be worn by all participants and River Leaders. Novice/Beginner paddlers will not be allowed onto the water until a nominated River Leader is on the water. A line of sight between participants will be maintained at all times. River Leaders will provide Novice/Beginner paddlers with a safety induction at the beginning of their first session. This induction will be recapped at the beginning of each subsequent session. The induction will include the instruction that all paddlers call out 'Capsize' when they witness somebody capsize. Kayaks, Canoes and SUPs to have adequate inherent buoyancy to prevent sinking and to provide a floating object for the participants to hold on to.	SVCC Buoyancy aids tested annually. Session Leader to ensure buoyancy aids correctly fitted. Regular checks on equipment during the season.	Low
Overhanging trees and branches hidden under	Drowning, Cold Water Shock,	All Participants	Leader/organiser will advise paddlers to keep away from river bank and trees- both overhanging and floating and	Tree management along the river bank will be	Low

the surface of the water causing capsize and/or entrapment	Hypothermia, Exhaustion and Physical Injury- head injury, broken bones, lacerations, sprains and strains		advised of the correct action in event of entanglement.	routinely undertaken.	
Collision with other river craft and/or paddlers causing capsize	Drowning, Cold Water Shock, Hypothermia, Exhaustion and Physical Injury- head injury, broken bones, lacerations, sprains and strains	All Participants	Leader/organiser Paddlers will be made aware of possibility of encountering other river users and advised on how to take appropriate/avoiding action.		Low
Slips, trips and falls whilst carrying boats to and from the river bank or when undertaking other portages	Drowning, Cold Water Shock, Hypothermia, and Physical Injury- head injury, broken bones, lacerations, sprains and strains	All Participants	Helmets to be worn by all Participants. Paddlers will be trained to lift correctly and encouraged to ask for help.	Familiarisation with stretches of river being worked on	Low
Use of Hand or power saws	Cuts / Lacerations severe injury/ Wounding.	All Participants	Heavy duty gloves to be worn with suitable grip. Users to be competent and proficient in the use of relevant saws. Power saws to be petrol driven only no electrical tools to be used. Power saws to be switched off when not in use and always kept away from other participants. Area where power sawing undertaken to be kept clear of other participants and other likely obstructions. Users to ensure they have a stable platform either on the water or on the river bank from which to conduct sawing safely. Consider additional assistance from banks persons and use of painters, safety lines to tether craft securely whilst work is undertaken. make sure a first aider stays with any users of power saws. Ensure all participants are aware how to raise help.	PPE	Low
Tree branches	Head and body injury from falling branches including bruising and breaking bones. Eye	All Participants	Ensure work area clear of other participants. Persons cutting branches to be aware of possibility of branches whipping back once cut free. Participants to check above head height to ensure any loose branches are identified and measures taken to avoid disturbing them or if likely	PPE	Low

	injury or facial injury from fast whipping branches when cut free.		to disturb them then to proceed with caution. Ensure helmets are worn throughout. Consider use of eye protection if risk of branches whipping back is likely		
Heavy sections of tree trunk	Sprains and strains resulting from poor handling of large / heavy /awkward sections of tree trunk	All Participants	Leader/organiser will make all participants aware of issues when handling Large / heavy / awkward items. Consider getting help from other participants. Employ the use of safety lines to tie around sections of trunk to manoeuvre and handle larger items. Use multiple banks persons to haul sections out of river or in to a safer position to allow to float off downstream once line removed.		Low
Encounters with Wild Life particularly Swans causing capsize	Drowning, Cold Water Shock, Hypothermia, Exhaustion and Physical Injury- head injury, broken bones, lacerations, sprains and strains	All Participants	Leader/organiser will make paddlers aware that they share the river with Wild Life including Swans. A line of sight between participants will be maintained at all times and where necessary paddlers with experience of encounters with swans will lead other paddlers past these creatures.		Low
Exacerbation or triggering of pre-existing Medical Conditions- Diabetes, Angina, Epilepsy, asthma, etc	Allergic reaction, Seizure, Asthma attack, Hypoglycaemia	All Participants	Leader/organiser will ensure that they have details of participants with pre-existing medical conditions prior to the start of the session. Where necessary River Leaders will carry participant's medications- Inhalers, Epi-pens, etc.		Low
Pollution and water quality	Stomach upsets and Weil's disease	All Participants	Leader/organiser will advise paddlers not to swallow water and to spit out any water that finds its way into their mouths and encouraged not to play with flotsam. Additionally they will be advised to bathe soon after immersion.	Risks higher in spate conditions. Avoid intentional capsizes in poor conditions.	Low

Date Reviewed: Master copies held with committee and reviewed annually	Person reviewing: Rob Mooring
Position in Stour Valley Canoe Club Committee: Club Safety Officer	Signature of reviewer: <i>Rob Mooring</i>