



## Risk Assessment

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| <b>Club Sessions:</b> Paddling between Durweston Mill DT11 0QD and Blandford Weir DT11 7AW.<br><b>Persons Undertaking Event:</b> Session Leader and participants.<br><b>Nearest Access Points:</b> Emergency vehicles can gain access to the river at Durweston Mill DT11 0QD, Bryanston School (Boathouse) DT11 0PX and Morrisons Car Park DT11 7AW.<br><b>Nearest Accident and Emergency Department:</b> Dorset County Hospital, Williams Avenue, Dorchester DT1 2JY.<br><b>Assessment completed by:</b> Neil Haggar (Club Safety Officer) of the management committee of the Stour Valley Canoe Club<br><b>Date Assessment Created / Completed:</b> 3 <sup>rd</sup> October 2025<br><b>Date of Next Review:</b> see below | <b>Session Leader:</b> Nominated by Committee Prior to commencing                                                                                                                                                                            |                     |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | <b>Other river leaders</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                     |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | <b>Emergency contacts:</b><br>Dorset County Hospital<br>South Western Ambulance Service<br><b>All under 18's are to have a "Tyvek" Band with Parent/carers contact details. This is to be attached to the outside of their Buoyancy Aid.</b> | 01305 251150<br>999 |

| HAZARD                                                                      | RISK BEFORE CONTROL MEASURES                                                                                                         | PERSONS AT RISK                | CONTROL MEASURES                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | COMMENTS ACTIONS                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | RESIDUAL RISK RATING |
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| 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 | Participants and River Leaders | Buoyancy aids will be worn by all participants and Leaders.<br>Novice/Beginner paddlers will not be allowed onto the water until a nominated Leader is on the water.<br>A line of sight between participants will be maintained at all times.<br>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.<br>The induction will include the instruction that all paddlers call out 'Capsize' when they witness somebody capsize.<br>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 checked Annually.<br><b>Session Leader and other club Coaches</b> to ensure buoyancy aids correctly fitted for new and inexperienced members<br>Regular checks on equipment during the season should be achieved as part of the kitting out of those requiring kit. <b>All those experienced club members assisting in handing out the kit</b> should ensure the kit is serviceable and if not take it out of service and <b>report it to the club safety</b> | Low                  |

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|                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                      |                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | <b>officer or other coaches or committee members</b> for remedial action (either repair or disposal and replacement).                                                  |     |
| Overhanging trees and branches hidden under the surface of the water causing capsize and/or entrapment | Drowning, Cold Water Shock, Hypothermia, Exhaustion and Physical Injury- head injury, broken bones, lacerations, sprains and strains | Participants and River Leaders       | During the safety induction novice/ Beginner paddlers will be advised to keep away from riverbank and trees- both overhanging and floating and advised as to correct action in event of entanglement.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Tree management along the riverbank will be routinely undertaken <b>by committee members and other experienced club members</b> as required.                           | Low |
| Exposure to prevailing weather conditions                                                              | Hyper/Hypothermia                                                                                                                    | Participants and Session Leaders     | Participants will be advised on the correct clothing to wear. Adjustment to clothing will be made as required.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Continuous dynamic risk assessment. <b>By coaches on each session</b>                                                                                                  | Low |
| Falling trees/tree branches in high winds/heavy rain                                                   | Serious physical injury/possible death- head injury, broken bones, lacerations, sprains and strains                                  | All Club Members and Session Leaders | All participants made aware of increased likelihood of trees coming down in high wind or after prolonged rain and/or high winds. Dynamic Risk Assessment made before each session to gauge whether session should commence if recent weather has been windy/rainy, or forecast is for same. If session goes ahead then all participants must be advised to put on to the water swiftly and paddle to the far bank to stay clear of the tree line. At end of session swift egress from the river should also be advised to all participants. Session coaches/leaders to continually assess throughout session in case of worsening conditions and if so, consider halting session and get off the water immediately. | Continuous dynamic risk assessment throughout. <b>Session coaches/leaders</b> to assess risk before each session. Consider re-scheduling for better weather conditions | Low |
| 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 | Participants and River Leaders       | During safety induction Novice/Beginner paddlers will be made aware of possibility of encountering other river users and advised on how to take appropriate/avoiding action.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | <b>Session Leader and Other Coaches</b> to keep an eye out for other river users and warn participants of any chance of possible collision.                            | Low |

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| Slips, trips and falls whilst carrying boats to and from the riverbank or when undertaking other portages | Drowning, Cold Water Shock, Hypothermia, and Physical Injury- head injury, broken bones, lacerations, sprains and strains                          | Participants and River Leaders | Novice/Beginner paddlers will be trained to lift/ carry correctly and encouraged to ask for help.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Regular maintenance of river side Pontoon, Club House floors and path from the Club House to the Pontoon undertaken. <b>By organised working parties set up by committee.</b> Boat storage routinely checked <b>by committee.</b> | Low |
| Being caught in a 'stopper' after shooting Bryanston or Blandford Weirs                                   | Drowning, Cold Water Shock, Hypothermia, Exhaustion and Physical Injury- head injury, broken bones, dislocations, lacerations, sprains and strains | Participants and River Leaders | Session Leader to assess the safety of stoppers prior to anybody attempting to shoot either weir.<br>In higher water levels the Session Leader will coordinate the setting-up of safety prior to the weirs being shot.                                                                                                                      | <b>Session Leader</b> will decide if suitable to run or not and will direct as appropriate.                                                                                                                                       | Low |
| Encounters with Wildlife particularly Swans causing capsize                                               | Drowning, Cold Water Shock, Hypothermia, Exhaustion and Physical Injury- head injury, broken bones, lacerations, sprains and strains               | Participants and River Leaders | During the safety induction on first session for Novice/Beginner paddlers they will be advised that they share the river with Wildlife 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 paddlers past these creatures. | Induction carried <b>out by member of the committee or other experienced/competent paddler as directed by committee.</b>                                                                                                          | Low |
| Exacerbation or triggering of pre-existing Medical Conditions- Diabetes, Angina, Epilepsy, asthma, etc    | Allergic reaction, Seizure, Asthma attack, Hypoglycaemia                                                                                           | Participants and River Leaders | The River Leader will ensure that they have details of participants with pre-existing medical conditions prior to the start of the session.<br>Where necessary River Leaders will carry participant's medications- Inhalers, Epi-pens, etc.                                                                                                 | Participants - where capable should carry their own Medications etc.<br><b>Where this is not possible and where necessary Session Leader will carry participant's medications- Inhalers, Epi-pens, etc on their behalf.</b>       | Low |
| Administering First aid                                                                                   | Contracting Corona Virus or other                                                                                                                  | Session Leader                 | Where CPR is required first aider should cover casualties' nose & mouth with some form of face covering – a t-shirt / scarf or other lightweight clothing. If no                                                                                                                                                                            | All Club First Aiders to be advised of new control measures <b>by qualified First aid instructors</b>                                                                                                                             | Low |

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|                                        | communicable disease                                                                                                  |                                | face covering available, the casualty's head can be turned to face away from the rescuer. Chest compressions ONLY should be given. NO Mouth to Mouth to be given. Any other first aid being administered the first aider should wear gloves throughout any treatment.                                                                                                     | <b><i>providing the up to date First Aid training provision.</i></b> and should observe these new control measures at all times.                                                                                   |     |
| Rope Swing's and Tree Jumping          | Drowning, Cold Water Shock, Hypothermia, Physical Injury- head injury, broken bones, lacerations, sprains and strains | All Participants               | <b>During Club Sessions these activities are prohibited: Use/ Construction of Rope Swings or similar. Tree Jumping.</b> SVCC has no insurance covering this activity therefore under no circumstances will this activity be authorised.                                                                                                                                   | <b>Session Leader to enforce compliance.</b>                                                                                                                                                                       | Low |
| Pollution and water quality            | Stomach upsets and Weil's disease                                                                                     | Participants and River Leaders | During the safety induction Novice/Beginner paddlers will be advised 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. Participants to be made aware of potential of exposure to poor quality water on initial induction <b><i>by Session Leader</i></b> | Low |
| Abuse of minors or vulnerable persons. | Abuse of minors or vulnerable persons.                                                                                | Minors and vulnerable persons. | Any concerns about any club member should be mentioned discretely to the Welfare Officer and raised by the Welfare Officer with the committee or with a suitable sub-group of the committee or with some other suitable forum or external group (e.g. Police) if the committee is not thought a suitable forum, e.g. if a committee member is the subject of the concern. | <b>Session Leader to ensure compliance</b>                                                                                                                                                                         | Low |

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| <b>Date Reviewed:</b> 03/10/2025<br><b>Next Review Date:</b> 31/10/2026   | <b>Person Reviewing:</b> Neil Haggar             |
| <b>Position in Stour Valley Canoe Club Committee:</b> Club Safety Officer | <b>Signature of Reviewer:</b> <i>Neil Haggar</i> |