



# Chester Riverside Canoe Club

## Risk Assessments

### Contents

1. Control Sheet
2. Log of Changes
3. Coaches Register
4. Definitions
5. Generic Risk Assessment
6. Site Specific: Chester Weir
7. Site Specific: Chester to Sand Lane/Eccleston
8. Site Specific: Eggbridge to Gowy
9. Site Specific: River Gowy Tunnels
10. Bushcraft

# Chester Riverside Canoe Club Risk Assessments



| Document Control           |                             |                         |            |  |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------|------------|--|
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| <b>Approver(s)</b>         | CRCC Committee              | <b>Effective Date</b>   | 08.07.2023 |  |
| <b>Audience</b>            | CRCC Coaches and Committee  | <b>Next Review Date</b> | 01.04.2024 |  |

| Revision History  |  |   |                                 |  |
|-------------------|--|---|---------------------------------|--|
| <b>Date</b>       | 28.02.2021   | 14.03.2022  | 13.11.2022                      | 08.07.2023   |
| <b>Issue No.</b>  | 01   | 02  | 03                              | 04   |
| <b>Change No.</b> | -  | 01  | 02                              | 03   |
| <b>Reviewers</b>  | Dave Pimlott, Vice-Chair<br>Sion Roberts, Safety Officer | Maria Watton, Chair<br>Dave Pimlott, Vice-Chair<br>Sion Roberts, Safety Officer | Sion Roberts,<br>Safety Officer | Alex Plant,<br>Safety Officer<br>Sion Roberts,<br>Coach<br>Coordinator |

# Chester Riverside Canoe Club Risk Assessments



| Log of Changes |            |           |  |
|----------------|------------|-----------|--|
| Date           | Change No. | Issue No. | Details  |
| 28.02.2021     | -          | 01        | Review of existing risk assessments  |
| 14.03.2022     | 01         | 02        | Addition of:<br>- throwline training<br>- presence of bird faeces whilst access-egress of wall by fish ladder and Eggbridge<br>- Food allergies<br>Annual review of existing risk assessments, change of format from Word to Excel |
| 13.11.2022     | 2          | 3         | Added night paddling risk assessment covering from Club and from Ecclestone to Club  |
| 08.07.2023     | 3          | 4         | Minor updates  |

Chester Riverside Canoe Club  
Risk Assessments



The Accompanying risk assessments shall be read, understood and abided with by all Coaches deployed by Chester Riverside Canoe Club

| Name | Date | Signed Declaration that:<br><i>'I have read, understood and agree to abide with these risk assessments, not withstanding exercising my own judgement within the remit of my current and valid British Canoeing (or British Canoe Union) Coaching/Leadership award'</i> |
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# Chester Riverside Canoe Club Risk Assessments



|            |                    | Consequence       |           |              |           |                  |
|------------|--------------------|-------------------|-----------|--------------|-----------|------------------|
|            |                    | Insignificant (1) | Minor (2) | Moderate (3) | Major (4) | Catastrophic (5) |
| Likelihood | Rare (1)           | 1 Green           | 2 Green   | 3 Green      | 4 Green   | 5 Yellow         |
|            | Unlikely (2)       | 2 Green           | 4 Green   | 6 Yellow     | 8 Yellow  | 10 Amber         |
|            | Possible (3)       | 3 Green           | 6 Yellow  | 9 Yellow     | 12 Amber  | 15 Amber         |
|            | Likely (4)         | 4 Green           | 8 Yellow  | 12 Amber     | 16 Amber  | 20 Red           |
|            | Almost Certain (5) | 5 Yellow          | 10 Amber  | 15 Amber     | 20 Red    | 25 Red           |

| RISK RATING:                      | 1 – 4 Green  | 5 – 9 Yellow                                      | 10 – 16 Amber  | 17 – 25 Red  |
|-----------------------------------|--|---|--|--|
| RISK GRADE:                       | ACCEPTABLE   | ADEQUATE  | TOLERABLE  | UNACCEPTABLE   |
| ACTION:                           | No further action, but ensure controls are maintained: | Continue to control through existing CRCC systems | Action where possible reported to CRCC management for further action | CRCC management action, supported by Lead coach  |
| LOCAL TIME FRAMES FOR COMPLETION: | None:  | Take what action you can to reduce risks.         | Take what action you can to reduce risks immediately.                | Stop activity and consider actions to reduce risk, failing that find alternative options |

## Chester Riverside Canoe Club Risk Assessments



**Generic Risk Assessment**  
Any Individuals With Specific Extra Needs: Specific extra needs will be assessed on a case by case basis.

| ID | What are the hazards for the activity? | Who might be harmed and how?   | What are you already doing?  | Current Risk Rating |             |             | What further action is necessary?  | Action by whom?                       | Forecast Risk Rating |             |             |
|----|--|--|--|---------------------|-------------|-------------|--|---------------------------------------|----------------------|-------------|-------------|
|    |  |  |  | Likelihood          | Consequence | Risk Rating |  |                                       | Likelihood           | Consequence | Risk Rating |
| 1  | Open Water Immersion                   | Coaches<br>Paddlers<br>Others<br>Drowning  | Venue choice, wearing of buoyancy aid instruction in capsize procedure.<br><br>Relevant supervision for novices.<br><br>Others advised if not wearing a buoyancy aid to keep away from waters edge, sides, slipways and off jetty/ landing stages.   | 1                   | 5           | 5           | Buoyancy aids tested annually, induction session for beginners and new members.<br><br>Supervisors / coaches to ensure buoyancy aid's are correctly fitted.<br><br>Dynamic visual checks on equipment during session | Lead<br><br>Coaches<br><br>Management | 1                    | 4           | 4           |
| 2  | Pollution<br>Poor water quality        | Coaches<br>Paddlers<br>Infection & illness   | Advised on the signs and symptoms of Weil's disease.<br><br>Venue choice, observation (eg dead fish, blue/green algae, rats) briefing, check for open wounds on hands etc. advised to bathe soon after immersion, Made aware of flotsam. Ensure paddlers use anti-bac hand wash before eating and drinking | 2                   | 2           | 4           | Check environment notices or boards, access to hand gel, latex gloves and plasters.<br><br>Risks higher in spate and very low water levels conditions.<br><br>Avoid intentional capsizes in poor water conditions    | Lead<br>Coaches                       | 1                    | 2           | 2           |
| 3  | Weather and environmental conditions   | All participants<br>Support and others<br><br>Hypothermia<br>Sunstroke                                 | Check weather conditions before each session. Advise on the correct clothing to wear. Adjustment to clothing as required. Members to carry spare clothing hot or cold drinks as advised and the use of sunblock in sunny or good weather   | 2                   | 2           | 4           | Dynamic assessment by coaches and support, awareness of how quickly condition can change.  | Lead<br>Coaches &<br>Support          | 1                    | 2           | 2           |
| 4  | Manual handling                        | Coaches<br>Paddlers & others<br><br>Injury from moving boats, equipment and loading/unloading trailers | Coaches to cover during introductory sessions<br><br>Choice of craft<br><br>Supervision by Coaches<br><br>Others to help under guidance and supervision  | 3                   | 2           | 6           | Supervision by coaches<br><br>Others to help under guidance and supervision  | Lead<br><br>Coaches &<br>Support      | 2                    | 2           | 4           |

## Chester Riverside Canoe Club Risk Assessments



| <b>Generic Risk Assessment</b>  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| Any Individuals With Specific Extra Needs: Specific extra needs will be assessed on a case by case basis. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

| ID | What are the hazards for the activity?                            | Who might be harmed and how?  | What are you already doing?   | Current Risk Rating |             |             | What further action is necessary?  | Action by whom?                  | Forecast Risk Rating |             |             |
|----|---|---|---|---------------------|-------------|-------------|--|----------------------------------|----------------------|-------------|-------------|
|    |   |   |   | Likelihood          | Consequence | Risk Rating |  |                                  | Likelihood           | Consequence | Risk Rating |
| 5  | Sprains and strains   | Paddlers and Coaches<br><br>Soft tissue injuries  | Coaches to advise on good lifting technique<br>Encourage new or novice members to paddle correctly and ask for help moving heavy craft.<br>Ensure that members do an appropriate warm up at the start of the activity and follow progression during the session.                            | 3                   | 2           | 6           | Activity needs to be appropriate to the fitness and skill levels of the individuals.   | Lead<br>Coaches &<br>Support     | 2                    | 2           | 4           |
| 6  | Slips, trips and falls.   | Coaches<br>Paddlers<br>and Others<br><br>Cuts, bruises, sprains and strains               | Appropriate footwear to be worn at all times. Visual dynamic assessment of buildings and venues suitability for use before session, checking landing stages, jetties, access and egress, At club house floors and steps. Any hazards found will be reported as appropriate and followed up. | 2                   | 2           | 4           | At club house, Appropriate cleaning/ maintenance equipment available.  | Lead<br>Coaches &<br>Support     | 2                    | 2           | 4           |
| 7  | Other users and craft<br>(on and off the water)                   | Coaches<br><br>Paddlers and Others<br><br>Conflict, collision, possible damage and injury | Coaches and paddlers instructed to be aware of other users and take appropriate action to avoid collisions.   | 2                   | 2           | 4           | Coaches, paddlers, support, guardians and associated family members must adhere to CRCCs appropriate Conduct policy.   | Lead<br>Coaches &<br>Support     | 1                    | 2           | 3           |
| 8  | Overhanging trees or strainers                                    | Coaches and Paddlers<br><br>Water immersions<br>Entanglement<br>Entrapment                | Dynamic assessment by coaches. Paddlers advised to negotiate around trees, overhanging, submerged or floating. Supervision and instruction for new and novice paddlers. Paddlers advised as to appropriate action in event of entanglement / entrapment.                                    | 2                   | 4           | 8           | Appropriate tree management safety training to be carried out by coaches.<br><br>Coaches to carry a rescue knife/ saw  | Lead<br><br>Coaches              | 1                    | 4           | 4           |
| 9  | Road Traffic, vehicles and trailers moving in car park / on roads | Coaches, paddlers & Others<br><br>Injury, collision and damage                            | Advise all on the need to take extra care when on the car park or public roads, when using shuttles at the access or egress and then the need for care when vehicles and trailers are being manoeuvred or loaded and unloaded.  | 2                   | 4           | 8           | Appropriate instruction and supervision of all members when vehicles and trailers are being moved around the site or at access / egress and offsite carparks and roadsides. Trailers shouldn't be reversed without a banksman. | Lead<br><br>Coaches &<br>Support | 1                    | 4           | 5           |

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| ID | What are the hazards for the activity?   | Who might be harmed and how?   | What are you already doing?  | Current Risk Rating |             |             | What further action is necessary?  | Action by whom?                       | Forecast Risk Rating |             |             |
|----|--|--|--|---------------------|-------------|-------------|--|---------------------------------------|----------------------|-------------|-------------|
|    |  |  |  | Likelihood          | Consequence | Risk Rating |  |                                       | Likelihood           | Consequence | Risk Rating |
| 10 | Transport.<br><br>Trips and shuttles to and from access or egress.<br><br>Moving of trailers | Coaches, Paddlers and Others<br><br>Welfare<br><br>Accident<br><br>Insurance<br><br>Not having the correct driving licence for towing. | All parents should endeavour to arrange transport of their children to the agreed meeting start location, and should arrange lift sharing between fellow members. All volunteer drivers, not club DBS checked, must have parental consent or welfare approval before offering none family members a lift. Any volunteer driver's vehicles must be road legal and have appropriate insurance. | 2                   | 3           | 6           | All volunteer drivers must be fit to do so eg. not under the influence of drugs or drink and hold a valid full UK licence.<br><br>All drivers volunteering to tow trailers for the club, must hold valid full UK licence with the correct entitlement to tow club trailers ie D1 / D1E | Welfare<br><br>Lead Coaches & Support | 1                    | 3           | 3           |
| 11 | Loss or theft  | Coaches, Paddlers & Others<br><br>Damage<br><br>Loss or theft of Personal and Club Property/ equipment                                 | Coaches, paddlers and others advised about the need for security e.g. not leaving property/ equipment on show or unsecured.<br><br>Coaches to check buildings, equipment and trailers are secured before leaving site or car parks at access or egress.  | 2                   | 2           | 4           | Any damage, loss or theft must be reported to the Committee and appropriate authorities if required or necessary.  | Lead<br><br>Coaches & Support         | 2                    | 2           | 4           |



## Chester Riverside Canoe Club Risk Assessments



### Site Specific Risk Assessment: Chester Weir

Chester weir is a tidal stretch of the Dee with many features that change with the tide and weather conditions.  
Coaches must have the appropriate qualifications or be signed off by CRCC to run sessions on the weir and in associated rough water.  
The coaches running the session must be competent in effecting a whitewater rescue in the condition of the session.

Helmets to be worn when paddling on the weir and in associated rough water.

Coaches must ensure paddlers have the appropriate skill and awareness of the environment to be paddling.

Chester is very popular with lots of different river users from wild swimmers, fishermen (on the banks and on the water), rowers, small hire / pleasure craft and larger cruisers.

Coaches, paddlers, support and associated family members must be aware of other users and take appropriate action to avoid collisions or conflict.

| ID | What are the hazards for the activity?                         | Who might be harmed and how?  | What are you already doing?  | Current Risk Rating |             |             | What further action is necessary?   | Action by whom?                     | Forecast Risk Rating |             |             |
|----|--|---|--|---------------------|-------------|-------------|---|-------------------------------------|----------------------|-------------|-------------|
|    |  |   |  | Likelihood          | Consequence | Risk Rating |   |                                     | Likelihood           | Consequence | Risk Rating |
| 1  | Large Stoppers form in high water / spate                      | Coaches and Paddlers may become caught in the tow back and capsize. | Coaches on the weir must ensure they have throwlines, knife and first aid kit.   | 2                   | 4           | 8           | In high water no club member may enter or approach the main stopper without permission from the coaches in charge.                                      | Lead Coach in charge of session     | 1                    | 4           | 4           |
| 2  | Objects (trees on the weir especially in high or medium flood) | Coaches and Paddlers<br>Entanglement and Entrapment                 | Coaches in charge to inspect and assess the weir before it is paddled.<br>Dynamic assessment throughout the session.   | 2                   | 4           | 8           | If the normal route is blocked or becomes semi obstructed the coach in charge will approve an alternative route or change the venue.                    | Lead coach in charge of the session | 1                    | 4           | 4           |
| 3  | Strainer at the top of the fish counter in high flood          | Coaches and Paddlers<br>Becoming pinned against the intake grill    | Coaches must advise and instruct all paddlers to keep away from the intake grill at the top of the fish counter.   | 1                   | 4           | 4           | Dynamic risk assessment   | Lead coach in charge of the session | 1                    | 4           | 4           |
| 4  | Broken wall  | Coaches and Paddlers<br>Being pinned against the wall               | Coaches to advise paddlers of the need for care at the Broken wall in medium to high water conditions. An up stream capsize against this wall could result in paddlers being pinned.                                       | 2                   | 4           | 8           | Coaches to assess the need for extra safety cover for the wall in medium to high water conditions or advise paddlers to keep away from the broken wall. | Lead coach in charge of the session | 1                    | 4           | 4           |
| 5  | Rocks in low water conditions                                  | Coaches and Paddlers<br>Bruise and scrape injuries                  | Rocks in low water. The tail at the bottom of the fish ladder is very rocky and injuries can be caused to swimmers. Coaches to use judgement as to whether or not throwline practice or water entry is appropriate or not. | 3                   | 2           | 6           | Swimming in the tail not allowed.   | Lead coach in charge of the session | 2                    | 2           | 4           |

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### Site Specific Risk Assessment: Chester Weir

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The coaches running the session must be competent in effecting a whitewater rescue in the condition of the session.

Helmets to be worn when paddling on the weir and in associated rough water.

Coaches must ensure paddlers have the appropriate skill and awareness of the environment to be paddling.

Chester is very popular with lots of different river users from wild swimmers, fishermen (on the banks and on the water), rowers, small hire / pleasure craft and larger cruisers.

Coaches, paddlers, support and associated family members must be aware of other users and take appropriate action to avoid collisions or conflict.

| ID | What are the hazards for the activity?  | Who might be harmed and how?   | What are you already doing?  | Current Risk Rating |             |             | What further action is necessary?   | Action by whom?                     | Forecast Risk Rating |             |             |
|----|---|--|--|---------------------|-------------|-------------|---|-------------------------------------|----------------------|-------------|-------------|
|    |   |  |  | Likelihood          | Consequence | Risk Rating |   |                                     | Likelihood           | Consequence | Risk Rating |
| 6  | Injury to swimmer or rescuer during throwline training.                                   | Coaches, swimmers and rescuers   | Coaches to advise paddlers of the risks of water entry and defensive swimming, and how to receive a line.<br><br>Paddlers to be advised on appropriate techniques for retrieving a swimmer.  | 3                   | 2           | 6           | Throwline practice on the weir steps ideally to build on previous flatwater throwline practice.   | Lead coach in charge of the session | 2                    | 2           | 4           |
| 7  | Wall by the fish ladder.  | Coaches and Paddlers<br><br>Slipping and tripping  | Coaches to advise paddlers of the need for care whilst walking along the wall by the fish ladder.  | 3                   | 2           | 6           | Paddlers advised running along the wall is not allowed. Wall is used for throwline training practice.   | Lead coach in charge of the session | 2                    | 2           | 4           |
| 8  | Slip hazard at egress, tree at bottom of egress forming strainer                          | Coaches and paddlers<br><br>Tree at bottom of egress forming strainer.<br><br>Bruise and scrape injuries | Helmets to be kept on when egressing. Coaches to assess the safest type of egress. Tree at bottom of egress steps group to hold in eddy by the island and egress in small groups under coaches instructions, in low water conditions the group may egress by walking up the driest parts of the side slope, advise novices to use their paddle as a walking stick. | 3                   | 2           | 6           | Coaches to advise on the need for care to avoid slipping. Novice and small paddlers may need help in getting their kayaks to the top. This is the responsibility of the coaches | Lead coach in charge of the session | 2                    | 2           | 4           |
| 9  | Egressing, assessing at the wall by the fish ladder with water-fowl/birds and bird faeces | Coaches and Paddlers   | Coaches to advise paddlers for the need for care when using wall as it may have birds/water-fowl and their faeces on it.   | 3                   | 2           | 6           | Coaches to have anti-bacterial hand gel available if paddlers are going to be eating snacks or lunch.   | Lead coach in charge of the session | 2                    | 2           | 4           |
| 10 | Tidal flotsam and debris (trees being the most common).                                   | Coaches and Paddlers<br><br>Collision, entanglement and water quality                                    | Coaches to advise paddlers to be aware and avoid flotsam and debris (especially trees / logs). Coaches to dynamically assess environmental conditions for any poor water quality and safety issues arising from high or spring tidal conditions.   | 3                   | 2           | 6           | Coaches to check tide times and weather conditions for the session and adjust / change venue if needed.   | Lead coach in charge of the session | 2                    | 2           | 4           |

## Chester Riverside Canoe Club Risk Assessments



### Site Specific Risk Assessment: Chester, The Meadows, Sandy Lane and up to Eccleston

Chester to Eccleston is a tidal stretch of the Dee with many manmade and natural features that change with the tide and weather conditions. Eccleston to Chester, on this section there is a ferry crossing at Sandy Lane and 2 automatic outlets which can release large amounts of water without warning causing strong currents and may effect water quality, they are marked with warning bouys. There is 1 automatic intake that operates without warning, this is not marked and is only noticeable by a large grill at the Bankside that can become obscured by foliage in the summer months, this could form a strainer and could pin a paddler.

**A1** The first outlet is located ( SJ 41418 63380 ) downstream (North) to Chester is on river right (East) just past the A55 road bridge,

**A2** The second outlet is located ( SJ 41170 64296 ) about 400yds downstream (North) river left (West).

**B1** The only intake is located ( SJ 41761 66351 ) 450yd downstream ( North) from Sandy Lane on river left (West / on the meadows side).

Coaches must have the appropriate qualifications or be signed off by CRCC to run sessions on the tidal condition of this section of the Dee.

Chester is very popular with lots of different river users from wild swimmers, fishermen (on the banks and on the water), rowers, small hire / pleasure craft and lager cruisers.

Coaches, paddlers, support and associated family members must be aware of other users and take appropriate action to avoid collisions or conflict.

| ID | What are the hazards for the activity?                                     | Who might be harmed and how?  | What are you already doing?  | Current Risk Rating |             |             | What further action is necessary?   | Action by whom?                     | Forecast Risk Rating |             |             |
|----|--|---|--|---------------------|-------------|-------------|---|-------------------------------------|----------------------|-------------|-------------|
|    |  |   |  | Likelihood          | Consequence | Risk Rating |   |                                     | Likelihood           | Consequence | Risk Rating |
| 1  | Tidal flotsam and debris (trees being the most common).                    | Coaches and Paddlers<br><br>Collision, entanglement and water quality               | Coaches to advise paddlers to be aware and avoid flotsam and debris (especially trees / logs). Coaches to dynamically assess environmental conditions for any poor water quality and safety issues arising from high or spring tidal conditions.   | 3                   | 2           | 6           | Coaches to check tide times and weather conditions for the session and adjust / change venue if needed.   | Lead coach in charge of the session | 2                    | 2           | 4           |
| 2  | Access and egress on the meadows and Eccleston                             | Coaches, Paddlers and Others.<br><br>Collision, conflict, animals and animal faeces | Coaches to be aware and advise paddlers and other for the need for care and avoid farm animals, dogs and their faeces when accessing and using the meadows for training or games, and Eccleston when used for access   | 3                   | 2           | 6           | When using the access at Eccleston, Coaches to instruct and supervise the unloading of the trailer and advise all on the need for extra care to avoid collision with cars and pedestrians when moving boats around in the car park and when using the stile                 | Lead coach in charge of the session | 1                    | 2           | 2           |
| 3  | Manmade features eg: floating pontoons, jetties, moorings and moored boats | Coaches and Paddlers<br><br>Collisions, Capsize, Entanglement, being pinned         | Coaches advise and instruct all paddlers to avoid and stay clear of floating pontoons, jetties, moorings and moored boats, in high water / tides, strong currents form round these trapping debris and flotsam.  | 2                   | 4           | 8           | In high water/ tidal conditions Coaches must be aware of the groups skill levels to ensure novice and new members are supervised and instructed to safe areas for the session away from any hazards features eg the meadows towards Sandy Lane or trip down from Eccleston. | Lead coach in charge of the session | 1                    | 4           | 4           |
| 4  | Manmade features<br><br>2nos automatic water outlets                       | Coaches and Paddlers<br><br>Strong currents, capsiz, poor water quality             | The locations are noted <b>A1</b> and <b>A2</b> in the site specific information above, at the start of this section. Coaches to advise and instruct paddlers to avoid and stay clear of the safety marker bouys. Coaches to dynamically assess for poor water quality if the outlets are or have been in operation. | 3                   | 2           | 6           | If poor water quality is an issue, Coaches to advise any paddlers that get wet for any reason on the need to wash hands before eating and to bathe soon after session.  | Lead coach in charge of the session | 2                    | 2           | 4           |
| 5  | Manmade feature<br><br>1nos automatic water intake                         | Coaches and Paddlers<br><br>Strong currents may form strainers                      | The location is noted as <b>B1</b> in the site specific information above, at the start of this section.<br><br>Coaches to advise and instruct paddlers to avoid and stay clear of the large intake grill. As this is taking water out of the river this should not impact water quality.                            | 3                   | 2           | 6           | Coaches advised not to use this area for training or games and stay clear of this intake.   | Lead coach in charge of the session | 2                    | 2           | 4           |

## Chester Riverside Canoe Club Risk Assessments



### Site Specific Risk Assessment: Chester, The Meadows, Sandy Lane and up to Eccleston

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Eccleston to Chester, on this section there is a ferry crossing at Sandy Lane and 2 automatic outlets which can release large amounts of water without warning causing strong currents and may effect water quality, they are marked with warning bouys. There is 1 automatic intake that operates without warning, this is not marked and is only noticeable by a large grill at the Bankside that can become obscured by foliage in the summer months, this could form a strainer and could pin a paddler.

**A1** The first outlet is located ( SJ 41418 63380 ) downstream (North) to Chester is on river right (East) just past the A55 road bridge,

**A2** The second outlet is located ( SJ 41170 64296 ) about 900yds downstream (North) river left (West).

**B1** The only intake is located ( SJ 41761 66351 ) 450yd downstream ( North) from Sandy Lane on river left (West / on the meadows side).

Coaches must have the appropriate qualifications or be signed off by CRCC to run sessions on the tidal condition of this section of the Dee.

Chester is very popular with lots of different river users from wild swimmers, fishermen (on the banks and on the water), rowers, small hire / pleasure craft and lager cruisers.

Coaches, paddlers, support and associated family members must be aware of other users and take appropriate action to avoid collisions or conflict.

| ID | What are the hazards for the activity?             | Who might be harmed and how?   | What are you already doing?  | Current Risk Rating |             |             | What further action is necessary?  | Action by whom?                     | Forecast Risk Rating |             |             |
|----|--|--|--|---------------------|-------------|-------------|--|-------------------------------------|----------------------|-------------|-------------|
|    |  |  |  | Likelihood          | Consequence | Risk Rating |  |                                     | Likelihood           | Consequence | Risk Rating |
| 6  | Egressing, assessing and the toilets at Sandy Lane | Coaches and Paddlers<br><br>Collision, Conflict, animals and animal faeces | If coaches use the slipway at Sandy Lane for egress and assess for breaks or to use the toilets, coaches to advise and instruct paddlers for the need for care using the slipway. It may have water fowl and their faeces on it. Coaches to have anti bacterial hand gel available if paddlers are going to be eating snacks or lunch. | 3                   | 2           | 6           | Coaches to instruct paddlers to go in pairs when using the toilets to avoid safeguarding and welfare issues.<br><br>Coaches to advise and instruct paddlers to avoid the ferry, jetty and other craft using the slipway. | Lead coach in charge of the session | 2                    | 2           | 4           |

# Chester Riverside Canoe Club Risk Assessments



## Site Specific Risk Assessment: Eggbridge to River Gowy Viaduct

This section of the Shropshire Union Canal has some fields without fences or hedges where farming equipment being used can come / pass very close to the canal edge, farm animals and wildfowl have direct access to the canal

**1A** car park access / egress (Eggbridge SJ 45522 64216) start head South East to Tattenhall Marina.

The car park is popular with dog walkers and people feeding the ducks and swans, extra care is needed to avoid animal faeces. This stretch of the Shropshire Union Canal is a very popular with narrow boats, cruisers and has a lot of live on moorings alongside. Care must be taken when passing moving craft to avoid passing on bends and tight spots eg bridges and near moored craft. Also take care passing any moored craft to avoid conflict.

**2B** Tattenhall Marina (SJ 49804 60426) is on the towpath side, South bank and has a bridge over the entrance, carry on heading East.

Care must be taken when passing the entrance to the Marina as long narrow boats coming out of the Marina do not have good visibility along the main canal for any small craft eg kayaks, canoes or sup. **NO UNPOWERED CRAFT** are allowed to enter the marina.

**3C** The River Gowy Viaduct (SJ 50928 60305) after passing the Marina the canal bends bearing North East and there is a wooded area, in this wooded area on the South East bank (towpath side) there is a small gap in the hedgerow and the steps lead you down to the Viaduct, where we could shelter if needed.

**(The River Gowy Tunnels run under the Viaduct if the Lead coach is not doing a Walk through the Tunnels, group advised not to access the river or tunnels).**

(if you miss the steps, you'll get to the end of the woods and there is a water overflow with a walk way and handrail on the North West bank (none towpath side) you've gone too far).

When stopping for lunch at the Gowy it is advised all boats be taken out of the water and stowed against the hedge row and not to block the towpath.

**In the event of an emergency or early exit needed The Bone Yard (CH3 9BD) SJ 49589 60508 can be used**

**At the viaduct for an emergency evacuation use the footpath running under the canal,  
on the towpath side follow the path East away from the canal and woods**

**(in 30m this opens out into fields), in appropriately 0.3mile leads to the junction Eddisbury Way, Ford Lane (SJ 50985 59781) CW3 9NG.**

| ID | What are the hazards for the activity?                               | Who might be harmed and how?   | What are you already doing?   | Current Risk Rating |             |             | What further action is necessary?   | Action by whom?                     | Forecast Risk Rating |             |             |
|----|--|--|---|---------------------|-------------|-------------|---|-------------------------------------|----------------------|-------------|-------------|
|    |  |  |   | Likelihood          | Consequence | Risk Rating |   |                                     | Likelihood           | Consequence | Risk Rating |
| 1  | Access and egress at Eggbridge and Gowy Viaduct.                     | Coaches, paddlers and Others<br><br>Collision, Conflict, animals and animal faeces | Coaches to be aware and advise paddlers and others of the need for care and avoid animals, dogs and their faeces when accessing and using the car park area at Eggbridge <b>1A</b> . If using Gowy Viaduct <b>3C</b> .  | 3                   | 2           | 6           | When accessing the canal at Eggbridge <b>1A</b> car park, Coaches to instruct and supervise the unloading of the trailer and advise all on the need for extra care to avoid collision with cars and pedestrians when moving boats around in the car park and sports field area.                                 | Lead coach in charge of the session | 1                    | 2           | 2           |
| 2  | Moored craft, canal traffic, people fishing and the marina entrance. | Coaches, Paddlers and Others.<br><br>Collision, damage and conflict                | Coaches to instruct and supervise paddlers and others of the need for care and to avoid collision and conflict with people fishing, moored and moving craft, on the main canal and <b>2B</b> Marina entrance. Extra care and supervision when moving craft are passing, avoid passing at bridges, next to moorings or bends and the entrance to the marina. | 3                   | 2           | 6           | Passing moving craft - Coaches to instruct and supervise paddlers to move aside in the wider sections paddling in single file and if needing to pass in the tighter or restricted sections stop paddling, pull in to the side in single file and consider getting out to avoid collision and crushing injuries. | Lead coach in charge of the session | 2                    | 2           | 4           |

## Chester Riverside Canoe Club Risk Assessments



### Site Specific Risk Assessment: Eggbridge to River Gowy Viaduct

This section of the Shropshire Union Canal has some fields without fences or hedges where farming equipment being used can come / pass very close to the canal edge, farm animals and wildfowl have direct access to the canal

**1A** car park access / egress (Eggbridge SJ 45522 64216) start head South East to Tattenhall Marina.

The car park is popular with dog walkers and people feeding the ducks and swans, extra care is needed to avoid animal faeces. This stretch of the Shropshire Union Canal is a very popular with narrow boats, cruisers and has a lot of live on moorings alongside. Care must be taken when passing moving craft to avoid passing on bends and tight spots eg bridges and near moored craft. Also take care passing any moored craft to avoid conflict.

**2B** Tattenhall Marina (SJ 49804 60426) is on the towpath side, South bank and has a bridge over the entrance, carry on heading East.

Care must be taken when passing the entrance to the Marina as long narrow boats coming out of the Marina do not have good visibility along the main canal for any small craft eg kayaks, canoes or sup. **NO UNPOWERED CRAFT** are allowed to enter the marina.

**3C** The River Gowy Viaduct (SJ 50928 60305) after passing the Marina the canal bends bearing North East and there is a wooded area, in this wooded area on the South East bank (towpath side) there is a small gap in the hedgerow and the steps lead you down to the Viaduct, where we could shelter if needed.

**(The River Gowy Tunnels run under the Viaduct if the Lead coach is not doing a Walk through the Tunnels, group advised not to access the river or tunnels).**

(if you miss the steps, you'll get to the end of the woods and there is a water overflow with a walk way and handrail on the North West bank (none towpath side) you've gone too far).

When stopping for lunch at the Gowy it is advised all boats be taken out of the water and stowed against the hedge row and not to block the towpath.

**In the event of an emergency or early exit needed The Bone Yard (CH3 9BD) SJ 49589 60508 can be used**

**At the viaduct for an emergency evacuation use the footpath running under the canal,  
on the towpath side follow the path East away from the canal and woods**

**(in 30m this opens out into fields), in appropriately 0.3mile leads to the junction Eddisbury Way, Ford Lane (SJ 50985 59781) CW3 9NG.**

| ID | What are the hazards for the activity?   | Who might be harmed and how?   | What are you already doing?  | Current Risk Rating |             |             | What further action is necessary?  | Action by whom?                     | Forecast Risk Rating |             |             |
|----|--|--|--|---------------------|-------------|-------------|--|-------------------------------------|----------------------|-------------|-------------|
|    |  |  |  | Likelihood          | Consequence | Risk Rating |  |                                     | Likelihood           | Consequence | Risk Rating |
| 3  | Stopping for lunch and egress at Gowy Viaduct <b>3C</b> .                        | Coaches, Paddlers and others.<br><br>Conflict, hygiene and infection         | Coaches to instruct and supervise paddlers when stopping for lunch at the Gowy viaduct <b>3C</b> to pull the boats out and stow them tight up against the hedgerow and to keep the towpath clear and free of kit. Coaches to advise all on the need for hygiene and to clean hands before handling food or eating and drinking. Coaches to ensure sanitising hand wash is available. | 3                   | 2           | 6           | If the weather is bad the Gowy viaduct can be used as shelter. Coach to check before use for farm animals and faeces. If coaches are going to use a stove to make hot drinks and marshmallows see risk assessment for cooking on stoves and campfires.<br><br><b>The River Gowy Tunnels run under the Viaduct, group advised not to access the river or tunnels unless the Lead coach is doing a Walk through the Tunnels.</b><br><br>See River Gowy Tunnels risk assessment | Lead coach in charge of the session | 3                    | 2           | 6           |
| 4  | Farm animals, wildfowl and farm machinery  | Coaches, Paddlers and Others.<br><br>Injury, conflict, hygiene and infection | Coaches to instruct and supervise paddlers on the need for caution, around areas where farm animals or wildfowl are, poor water quality can be an issue. Farm animals can be unpredictable and if spooked can cause harm to themselves and others.   | 2                   | 2           | 4           | Coaches to instruct and supervise paddlers to stay clear and away from any farm machinery working near the canal or its edge.  | Lead coach in charge of the session | 2                    | 2           | 4           |
| 5  | Egressing, assessing and potential presence of faeces and/or Weil's in rat urine | Coaches and Paddlers   | Coaches to advise and paddlers for the need for good hand hygiene, and to use anti bacterial hand gel before eating or drinking.   | 3                   | 2           | 6           |  | Lead coach in charge of the session | 2                    | 2           | 4           |

# Chester Riverside Canoe Club Risk Assessments



## Site Specific Risk Assessment: Shropshire Union Canal River Gowy Tunnels Walk Through

3C The River Gowy Viaduct and Tunnels (SJ 50928 60305)

The tunnels are culverts running under the Shropshire Union Canal. One is Victorian and one modern

Other groups use the tunnels so they may be in use.

Coaches to check weather forecast and water level for the Gowy before making judgment for this venue. Poor water quality can be an issue in very low water levels.

Coaches have to make a judgment on water levels (as a guide no deeper than 2ft) knee high. Carrying out a walkthrough to check for any safety issues

before allowing any of the groups through.

The Viaduct is a farm access for animals and machinery, this can be used as a sheltered holding / staging area for people waiting or not taking part.

Coaches must have working torches. The tunnels have very low light in the new section and the Victorian section is dark with no light in the middle, advise participants to take head torches,

**At the viaduct for an emergency evacuation use the footpath running under the canal,**

**on the towpath side follow the path East away from the canal and woods**

**(in 30m this opens out into fields), in appropriately 0.3mile leads to the junction Eddisbury Way, Ford Lane (SJ 50985 59781) CW3 9NG.**

| ID | What are the hazards for the activity?             | Who might be harmed and how?   | What are you already doing?   | Current Risk Rating |             |             | What further action is necessary?  | Action by whom?                     | Forecast Risk Rating |             |             |
|----|--|--|---|---------------------|-------------|-------------|--|-------------------------------------|----------------------|-------------|-------------|
|    |  |  |   | Likelihood          | Consequence | Risk Rating |  |                                     | Likelihood           | Consequence | Risk Rating |
| 1  | Poor water quality, Slips and falls in the tunnels | All participants.<br><br>Infection<br><br>Cuts and bruises<br><br>Drowning | Water level and water quality to be assessed by coach, walk through before group go in. As a guide no deeper than 2ft, knee high. Observation on water quality (eg dead fish or animals and rats), briefing, check for open wounds on hand etc... buoyancy aid and helmets must be worn by all participants | 3                   | 2           | 6           | Avoid unsuitable foot wear, no running or pushing awareness and group management.<br><br>Coaches to carry torches in the tunnels in case of incidents. A first aid kit must be available.<br><br>Advise all to wash hands before eating. Access to antibacterial hand gel, latex gloves and plasters for any cuts. | Lead coach in charge of the session | 2                    | 2           | 4           |
| 2  | Weather conditions                                 | All participants.<br><br>Hypothermia, heatstroke, rising water levels      | Check forecast and water levels for the venue, observation and judgment. Briefing and advise on suitable clothing for the weather conditions  | 2                   | 2           | 4           | Coaches to visually monitor river levels and weather conditions  | Lead coach in charge of the session | 2                    | 2           | 4           |

## Chester Riverside Canoe Club Risk Assessments



**Site Specific Risk Assessment: Night paddling Chester, The Meadows, Sandy Lane or from Eccleston to Club**

Chester to Eccleston is a tidal stretch of the Dee with many manmade and natural features that change with the tide and weather conditions. Eccleston to Chester, on this section there is a ferry crossing at Sandy Lane and 2 automatic outlets which can release large amounts of water without warning causing strong currents and may effect water quality, they are marked with warning bouys. There is 1 automatic intake that operates without warning, this is not marked and is only noticeable by a large grill at the Bankside that can become obscured by foliage in the summer months, this could form a strainer and could pin a paddler.

**A1** The first outlet is located ( SJ 41418 63380 ) downstream (North) to Chester is on river right (East) just past the A55 road bridge,

**A2** The second outlet is located ( SJ 41170 64296 ) about 900yds downstream (North) river left (West).

**B1** The only intake is located ( SJ 41761 66351 ) 450yd downstream ( North) from Sandy Lane on river left (West / on the meadows side).

Coaches must have the appropriate qualifications or be signed off by CRCC to run sessions on the tidal condition of this section of the Dee.

Chester is very popular with lots of different river users from wild swimmers, fishermen (on the banks and on the water), rowers, small hire / pleasure craft and larger cruisers.

Coaches, paddlers, support and associated family members must be aware of other users and take appropriate action to avoid collisions or conflict.

**NB ALSO REFER TO CHESTER TO SANDY LANE/ECCLESTON RISK ASSESSMENT**

| ID | What are the hazards for the activity?                               | Who might be harmed and how?   | What are you already doing?   | Current Risk Rating |             |             | What further action is necessary?  | Action by whom?                     | Forecast Risk Rating |             |             |
|----|--|--|---|---------------------|-------------|-------------|--|-------------------------------------|----------------------|-------------|-------------|
|    |  |  |   | Likelihood          | Consequence | Risk Rating |  |                                     | Likelihood           | Consequence | Risk Rating |
| 1  | Vehicle movements at meeting point - risk of collision from vehicles | Coaches and Paddlers<br><br>Collision  | Meeting at rendezvous point   | 3                   | 4           | 12          | Coaches to advise paddlers to be aware of hazard and to congregate away from vehicles (e.g. on the grassed area by the fence/gate).<br><br>Brief all paddlers that there is no edge protection at the end of Eccleston and not to congregate around this area.<br><br>When using the access at Eccleston, Coaches to instruct and supervise the unloading of the trailer and advise all on the need for extra care to avoid collision with cars and pedestrians when moving boats around in the car park and when using the gate | Lead coach in charge of the session | 2                    | 4           | 8           |
| 2  | Access and egress from Club jetty and Eccleston beach                | Coaches, Paddlers and Others.<br><br>Manual handling craft and equipment in the dark.<br><br>Slips and trips, unplanned water entry. | No paddler shall be on the jetty or beach at Eccleston without the presence of a Coach.<br>Paddlers to support each other carrying craft to and from the access/egress. | 3                   | 2           | 6           | Coach to be 'launch ready' with head torch and throwline.  | Lead coach in charge of the session | 2                    | 2           | 4           |



## Chester Riverside Canoe Club Risk Assessments



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|----|--|--|--|---------------------|-------------|-------------|--|-------------------------------------|----------------------|-------------|-------------|
|    |  |  |  | Likelihood          | Consequence | Risk Rating |  |                                     | Likelihood           | Consequence | Risk Rating |
| 3  | Group control/missing paddlers in the dark | Coaches and Paddlers becoming separated from the group                                 | Everyone is assigned a number - Lead Coach is Nos 1, and other coaches distributed throughout the group, with a Coach as last number | 3                   | 3           | 9           | <p>Everyone on the water is to have a fluorescent glow stick that is attached to the shoulder strap of the buoyancy aid.</p> <p>Spare glow sticks to be carried.</p> <p>All coaches to have head torches and spare batteries. Paddlers to have torches (optional), use of torches at the discretion and direction of coaches.</p> <p>All coaches to exercise vigilant group control and have charged mobiles and numbers of bankside support.</p>          | Lead coach in charge of the session | 2                    | 2           | 4           |
| 4  | Flood/ebb tide, high/moderate river levels | Coaches and paddlers paddling against the current or downstream in moderate/high flows | Review high tide time and height   | 3                   | 3           | 9           | <p>Trip to be planned to avoid flood tides that may over top the weir (such that paddling against the tide is avoided/minimised) and moderate/high flows.</p> <p>Coaches to hold a coaches briefing session before the activity.</p> <p>Monitor NRW Dee gauge at Iron Bridge<br/><a href="https://rivers-and-seas.naturalresources.wales/Station/4173?parameterType=1">https://rivers-and-seas.naturalresources.wales/Station/4173?parameterType=1</a></p> | Lead coach in charge of the session | 1                    | 3           | 3           |

## Chester Riverside Canoe Club Risk Assessments



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|----|--|--|--|---------------------|-------------|-------------|---|-------------------------------------|----------------------|-------------|-------------|
|    |  |  |  | Likelihood          | Consequence | Risk Rating |   |                                     | Likelihood           | Consequence | Risk Rating |
| 5  | Weather                                | Coaches and paddlers paddling being adversely affected by wind/rain/low temperatures.<br><br>Risk of hypothermia | All paddlers to be briefed at time of booking on appropriate clothing.       | 3                   | 3           | 9           | Paddlers to bring spare clothing to be carried in a barrel by a coach.<br><br>Helmets, bouancy aids, dry suit or wet-suit/dry cag to be worn.<br><br>Review weather during the week and confirm go / no-go based on forecast on the day.<br><br>Contingency plan in place - egress river on river left at nearest safe location and contact bankside support. Consider options for aborting if deemed appropriate.      | Lead coach in charge of the session | 2                    | 3           | 6           |
| 6  | Water entry                            | Coaches and paddlers   | Coach to effect rescue (with assistance as required depending on situation). | 3                   | 4           | 12          | Group to be briefed beforehand on the procedure should there be a swimmer. Novice paddlers and above on night paddles.<br><br>Remaining group to be made safe by rafting up or waiting in eddy/bank side away from trees/strainers.<br><br>Swimmer to be assessed for signs of cold/hypothermia and appropriate action/intervention to be taken.<br><br>Helmets, bouancy aids, dry suit or wet-suit/dry cag to be worn. | Lead coach in charge of the session | 2                    | 4           | 8           |

## Chester Riverside Canoe Club Risk Assessments



**Site Specific Risk Assessment: Bushcraft**  
Bushcraft, fire starting or Camp fire and cooking from stove or fire. Before the activity commences, first aid kit to be available, briefing on fire safety, check for unsuitable clothing eg, baggy, loose or flammable. Caution on the misuse of flint and steel

| ID | What are the hazards for the activity? | Who might be harmed and how?  | What are you already doing?   | Current Risk Rating |             |             | What further action is necessary?   | Action by whom?   | Forecast Risk Rating |             |             |
|----|--|---|---|---------------------|-------------|-------------|---|---|----------------------|-------------|-------------|
|    |  |   |   | Likelihood          | Consequence | Risk Rating |   |   | Likelihood           | Consequence | Risk Rating |
| 1  | Falling into the fire / stove          | All participants.<br><br>Burns and scalds                                 | Group supervision and management. Area around the fire / stove to be kept clear of any trip hazards,<br><br>No running round near the fire/ stove cooking area. Setting clear boundaries for correct behaviour, no overcrowding eg pushing, shoving or playing games near fire/ stove cooking area.   | 2                   | 4           | 8           | First aid kit to be available.<br>Burn dressing or any available clean water to be used for first treat of any burns or scolds,   | Responsible member of staff in charge of supervising the activity | 1                    | 4           | 4           |
| 2  | Fire / stove becoming out of control   | All participants.<br><br>Fire damaging surrounding area, burns and scalds | Activity leader to choose suitable area to be used and to be constantly supervising the fire or stoves when alight or hot, camp fires must not be over filled with fuel or the flames allowed to reach head height or over 6 feet high. Stoves for cooking, flames not allowed to be higher than 2 feet/ knee height. Fire fuel, wood / lighting materials to be kept away from fire/ stove area when alight or not supervised. | 2                   | 4           | 8           | Fire extinguisher or water to be at hand to dampen the fire down or put it out. Fires to be extinguished fully after use, stoves to be allowed to cool down before staff handle them. No pressurised containers, wet stones, bottles or pine cones to be put on the fire. | Responsible member of staff in charge of supervising the activity | 1                    | 4           | 4           |
| 3  | Hot food and drink, hygiene            | All participants.<br><br>Burns and scalds, hygiene, illness               | Staff to instruct and supervise the cooking of food stuffs to ensure correctly cooked through. Participants advised for the need for care handling, tasting and eating / drinking hot food / drinks that have just come off the fire / stove. Staff to advise, instruct and supervise junior/ novice participants on correct hygiene procedure to ensure food safety.   | 2                   | 2           | 4           | Staff to advise, instruct and supervise junior / novice participants on the need to use and keep clean their cooking and eating implements. To wash and clean their hands before cooking and eating.  | Responsible member of staff in charge of supervising the activity | 1                    | 2           | 2           |
| 4  | Weather conditions                     | All participants  | Briefing, if the weather is too wet or windy, activity can be changed to cooking marshmallows on trangias under shelter of marquees, but not in a small confined space eg tent or shelter   | 3                   | 1           | 3           | Only staff allowed to move hot stoves or cookware.  | Activity Leader   | 3                    | 1           | 3           |
| 5  | Allergy to food or drink               | Participant   | Coaches must be aware of the any medical conditions and allergies within the group which are documented on the members medical form   | 3                   | 5           | 15          | If EpiPen is required, Coaches are aware of location of medication, and to contact bankside support in case of emergency.   | Activity Leader   | 1                    | 5           | 5           |