Lindley Educational Trust Hollowford Centre	**Risk Assessment** **Watersports** **Inc. kayak, canoe, inflatables & improvised raft building**	Current as of January 2026 By Paul Booker Review date by 31 January 2027

Benefit Statement	Watersports activities provide the opportunity to learn new skills, work in teams and undertake a personal challenge. Various skills such as the relevant paddle strokes and technique required to manoeuvre the craft either solo or in small groups can be learnt and developed. Personal development elements are also involved such as extending comfort zones, providing a sense of achievement and potentially also the ability to make dynamic risk assessments and to take responsibility for others within a supervised environment.

HAZARD	RISK	CONTROL MEASURE	FURTHER ACTION REQURED	RESPONSIBILITY / DUE & COMPLETED DATES
Minibus Travel	Various injuries	Separate Risk Assessment	No further action at this stage	
General	Various injuries	Code of Practice applies Suitably qualified & experienced instructor (includes First Aid) Clear briefings & supervision All accidents, near misses and incidents are recorded and appropriate action undertaken as required. Safety reviewed in staff meetings. Seek & share information with similar providers	No further action at this stage	
For every session there will be a dynamic risk assessment on arrival and will be on going throughout the activity session				
Extreme Weather	Sunburn Hypothermia Hyperthermia	Instructor to check weather forecast prior to session & observe conditions throughout. If necessary stop activity and move to safety (often minibus or accommodation). Change plans as necessary Ensure participants have suitable & adequate clothing plus access to warm (or cold) drinks Remind visiting staff & young people about sun protection. Group shelter & throwline available	No further action at this stage	
Equipment Failure	Various injuries	All equipment checked prior to use. Regular checks, maintenance & renewal schedule All equipment to correspond to required standards Personal protective equipment checked for correct fitting & monitored throughout activity by the instructor	No further action at this stage	
Participants	Various	Participants asked to share relevant previous & existing medical issues. Visiting group leaders asked any other (eg behavioural) issues Staff ratios (group size) amended as required	No further action at this stage	
Members of the public	Various	Venue choice Qualified & experienced instructor	No further action at this stage	

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Deep water	Drowning	Buoyancy aids to be worn correctly & instructor to monitor throughout activity	No further action at this stage	
Submerged objects	Various	Venue choice Qualified & experienced instructor Helmets worn at instructors discretion Footwear to be worn	No further action at this stage	
Paddles	Various	Clear briefings & supervision	No further action at this stage	
Water borne disease (Weils) or contamination	Illness	Consider cleanliness of new / infrequently used venues Cover cuts Always tell delegates to wash hands before eating, and shower after session	No further action at this stage	
Blue green algae	Illness	Monitor sites after long periods of hot, still weather Avoid / limit use of contaminated sites	No further action at this stage	
Lifting & carrying	Various	Briefing on correct manual handling technique (min 2 persons per boat)	No further action at this stage	

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Kayak	Entrapment	Qualified instructor Brief on getting in and out of kayak, to include releasing of spraydeck if being used Boats fitted correctly and securely Suitable footwear worn - not too big	No further action at this stage	
Canoe – improvised raft & sailing	Trapped fingers Swamped boats Raft falling apart Entanglement	Qualified instructor & experienced instructor. If forecast suggests it will be very windy carefully consider venue choice – rafted canoes might not be best option – consult other instructors and centre management Collapsible sail Clear briefings & supervision. Knife carried	No further action at this stage	
Raft Building	Various Raft falling apart Entanglement	Qualified instructor & experienced instructor. Clear briefings & supervision. Knife carried Helmets worn during construction & on water Pre launch safety inspection by instructor	No further action at this stage	
Moving water (overhanging trees, weirs, rocks etc.)	Various	Clear briefings & supervision, inc hazards and communication signals Water level monitored throughout, ongoing hazard management and route selection by instructor Weirs to be inspected – speed & amount of water to be taken into account Access / Egress knowledge of area being used	No further action at this stage	
Open Water (wind, large waves)	Stranded in remote location Swamping	Qualified instructor & experienced instructor. Clear briefings & supervision Plan / change route according to changing weather conditions Shelter, spare food, source of hot drinks, spare clothes Bailer to remove excessive water	No further action at this stage	

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Extreme Cold Water (ice)	Cold shock response.	Qualified instructor Clear briefings & supervision. Be aware of the general conditions – wind speed and chill, air and water temperature. Make client's aware of the conditions and what they are likely to feel should they become immersed. **The cold shock response!**	No further action at this stage	
Mud	Getting stuck	Assess banks, in extended dry periods check situation from previous visits. Avoid areas where mud is evident on banks. Qualified instructor Clear briefings & supervision. Buoyancy aids to be worn		
Site Specific comments re; Hope Ponds				
Slipway	Deep water	Be aware that the water is very deep on the edge of the slipway Clear briefings & supervision Buoyancy aids to be worn	No further action at this stage	
Mud	Getting feet stuck	Looking from the slip way, the pond floor at the 2 left corners is muddy. Avoid these areas. Qualified instructor Clear briefings & supervision. Buoyancy aids to be worn	No further action at this stage	
Mobile Phones	No mobile signal for emergencies	The nearest phone is available in the offices at Eccles House Business Centre on the road towards Hope.	No further action at this stage	
pH	Low/mild skin irritation	Hope Construction Materials to carry out pH testing on a regular basis and on the days of a group attending.	No further action at this stage	