Banbury & District Canoe Club			RISK ASSESSMENT	Date of Assessment	18th February 2026
Task	Generic Club Risk Assessment for activities on the Oxford Canal within the vicinity of Cropredy/Banbury			Contact (Name & Tel No)	Graham Warland 07983113597

At annually, all nominated club coaches, committee members and activity group leaders are to sign that they have read and understood this risk assessment. All club members will tick that they have read and understood this risk assessment when they renew their membership.

This risk assessment will be posted in the clubhouse and available on the club website.

To contact emergency services: Telephone situated in the clubhouse near the large white notice board, mobile phone or landline from Sarah at Wharf House, Bridge Stores, or the Jault family at 11 Vicarage Gardens.

What Are the Hazards? Anything that may cause harm	Who Might Be Harmed?	What Are you Already Doing? Control measures in place	Further Control Measures To reduce or eliminate the hazard	Review comments/ completion date
On the Water				
Drowning. Risk low on canal; depth generally <1.5m but there are deeper parts	All participants, particularly young, inexperienced paddlers, or more generally in cold conditions	All juniors of Div 7 standard and below to wear buoyancy aids unless dispensation given by the coach in charge on the day. Adults in Div 7 and below are advised to wear buoyancy aids In winter months (denoted by GMT time) all juniors (aged 16 and below) to wear buoyancy aids unless dispensation given by senior club coach.	Regular reminders to coaches and paddlers (newsletter and briefings) Review these rules depending on weather. Particular care to be taken for beginners' groups or activity groups.	Review risks if organising a club paddle on unfamiliar water Separate risk assessment required for other activities
Cold (hypothermia)	All participants	Paddlers reminded to wear appropriate clothing for the conditions, particularly junior paddlers. Coaches may refuse to let a paddler join the group if dressed inappropriately for the weather.	Coaches and group leaders to ensure that inexperienced juniors are accompanied at all times (so not allowed to leave a training session on their own). Coaches and group leaders to monitor for hypothermia if weather conditions are inclement.	Review and remind prior to clocks changing each October

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Sunburn and dehydration	All participants	Participants will be reminded of need for sun protection if necessary. Risk of dehydration low as normal water sessions are maximum of 1 hour.	Coaches to advise juniors to carry water if conditions are hot and to monitor participants for symptoms of dehydration.	Monitor
Lightning strike	All participants	Paddlers on water with carbon paddles are vulnerable to lightning strike. Coaches and group leaders are aware of this risk. All paddlers reminded of thunderstorm protocol via club newsletter. Protocol posted on clubhouse noticeboard.	Group leader to curtail water activities if there is risk of thunderstorm. If there is a thunderstorm during a session, paddlers will leave the water until the risk ceases.	Monitor
Other Boats	All participants	Paddlers are warned in training about dangers from powered craft and the waterway code. Closer supervision required of inexperienced paddlers.	Coaches to supervise beginners' groups and inexperienced paddlers when in vicinity of moving boats.	Monitor
Equipment failure. Impact is low on the canal	All participants	Regular checks of club boats and buoyancy aids. Paddlers are responsible for their own equipment	Remind paddlers to report any boat repairs	Arrange annual check of buoyancy aids
Aggressive swans	All participants	Paddlers to be reminded to avoid swans and other wildlife.	Avoid nesting swans if necessary	Monitor
Weils disease (Leptospirosis)	All participants	Risk from Weils disease is explained in beginners' course including need for paddlers to cover open sores with plasters and wash hands at end of session.	Reminder about covering sores and washing hands	Remind new paddlers who have not done beginners' course
Darkness	Participants	During winter months there are some organised dark hours training sessions. These are more closely managed. Boats should carry at least a red torch facing to the rear. Appropriate dress to be worn for the conditions. Paddlers to wear buoyancy aids.	Ensure only experienced paddlers participate and the appropriate control measures are in place. If it is an organised session ensure all paddlers are accounted for.	Monitor
Ice	Participants	The canal freezes up in cold weather. Sessions are curtailed if the conditions do not allow safe paddling, although use of plastic boats is permitted if taken out by groups of at least 3 people.	Warn club members by weekly email or Facebook	Monitor

Off the water				
Slippery ground around club area – slips, trips and falls	All participants	Running on the artificial grass and surrounding area is permitted as long as conditions permit this.	Monitor surfaces and clean them if necessary	Monitor
Lack of child protection controls, physical, mental injury	Junior participants	Club has nominated safeguarding officer. Coaches have received safeguarding training. Males/females change in different rooms.		Monitor
Minor injuries, cuts, fractures on or off water	All participants	Club coaches are 1st aid trained A first aid pack is available in the clubhouse. Professional medical support will be called if required.		Monitor
Other severe medical conditions	All participants	BDCC's H&S policy: *medical records and contact details are all in the cabinet and are accessible to coaches* Member details on Membermojo are accessible to club administrators via on site wifi.		
Fire or electric shock. Loss of mains power.	All participants, and non-paddlers	Battery operated fire alarms, fire extinguishers and fire blanket in place.	Monthly testing is carried in accordance with BS EN 5266 for the emergency lighting and BS EN 5839 for the fire detectors.	Monitor
Burns and scalding	All participants	Minor risk when cooking or making hot drinks. A first aid kit is kept in the food preparation area. Cold water is available.	Move people away from hazard areas if necessary	Monitor
Injury caused by gym equipment and ergo machines – misuse or equipment failure	Users	Equipment is visually checked regularly. Club organised indoor training sessions for juniors are supervised.	Ensure new users receive an induction	

Operation Ownership – Chairman (Name and Signature)	Kirsten Suenson-Taylor	Assessment Done By (Name and Signature)	Graham Warland
By signing, you confirm that the risk is acceptable			