

Banbury & District Canoe Club Ross Warland Memorial Canal Challenge 30 November 2025.

Risk Assessment.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
What are the hazards?	Who might be harmed?	Likely-hood	Consequences	Score 3 X 4	Is the risk adequately controlled and how?	What further action is necessary to control the risk?	Review comments / Review date
Competition vehicle traffic access the site causing injury to someone.	Participants, spectators and public in vehicles or walking near vehicles	1	5	5	Yes. Car park marshals will be in place to guide vehicles into parking space.	There will be a designated parking area for trailers and large vehicles.	Week commencing Monday 24 November 2025
Marshals at appropriate points on the course.	Spectators, participants	1	3	3	Marshals will be positioned at both the start, turn and finish line and also at Banbury Lock. They will be wearing high viz vests or jackets.	Marshals to be informed and will carry first aid kits and thermal blankets.	Week commencing Monday 24 November 2025
The use of stakes driven into the ground.	Participants, spectators and public and also the possibility of disrupting the essential services.	1	5	3	We have traditionally not used stakes and are not likely to.	Volunteers to be informed.	Week commencing Monday 24 November 2025
Injury caused by collision with competitors carrying boats and kit from car park	Public, participants, marshals and spectators	1	3	3	Yes. Participants parking will be at the Sports Club car park and signposted.	Car Park marshals will be present and will supervise this activity and advise if required.	Week commencing Monday 24 November 2025
Injury caused by litter, debris or hazardous items on or near the Race Site or Race Start.	All	1	3	3	Inspection by race organiser at start of the set up on day of race.	Litter bins/containers positioned around the site. All litter/hazardous items collected and	Week commencing Monday 24 November 2025

						stored until they can be safely removed from site after the race.	
Injury caused by collision with competitors with boats at portages.	Public, participants, marshals and spectators	1	2	2	Yes. Marshals will be positioned with signs at Banbury Lock and at the turn at Nell Bridge as well as at the start to control the passage of people and also record the participant's time. Signs and hazard notices will be posted during week of the race. It is deemed that due to the low density of kayak traffic that marshals will not be required at the other locks. Participants will be told not run the portages on the race information sheet. This will be reinforced at the briefing prior to the start of the race.		Week commencing Monday 24 November 2025
Competitors being injured by being barefoot at portages or any slips, trips or falls.	Participants	1	2	2	Pre-Race Instructions: "The Race organisers will recommend that all paddler wear appropriate protective footwear throughout the event to avoid damage and injury". There are qualified First Aiders available to assist if required		Week commencing Monday 24 November 2025

Hazards due to weather conditions	Participants, marshals and organizers	1	3	3	The Race Organisers will keep an eye on the weather forecast in the days prior to the race.	In addition if the weather is so inclement (snow, ice, thunder / hail etc) the race organisers will make a decision to either postpone or cancel the race	Week commencing Monday 24 November 2025
Hazard due to difficult access to canal bank by marshals and participants	Participants and marshals	1	2	2	Yes. There is a towpath along the entire stretch of the river, allowing good access to the canal bank.	The towpath is to be kept clear at all times.	Week commencing Monday 24 November 2025
Difficulty of paddler being able to access an easy point on the canal bank to get out of the water	Participants and marshals	2	2	4	Yes. There is a towpath along the entire stretch of the river, allowing good access to the canal bank		Week commencing Monday 24 November 2025
Problems caused by poor ability of paddlers/ inexperienced paddlers	Participants	1	2	2	Yes. Pre-race information states that "All participants are responsible for ensuring that they are properly equipped having taken into account the paddler's health, fitness, capability, the course, the prevailing conditions and other risks associated with this race". It is the participants clubs team leader to ensure that every boat competing is in a fit and proper state as required in the 2021	The support crew for junior crews must meet at Banbury Lock, Twyford Bridge and Nell Bridge on both legs. It is permissible to cycle alongside.	Week commencing Monday 24 November 2025

					Racing Clubs Handbook. All junior crews to have a support team.		
Hazard due to poor fitness or medical condition of paddlers	Participants	1	5	5	Yes. (see above) It is the responsibility of individual paddlers and team leaders to determine if they are fit to race.	There will be First Aid qualified officials at race control. Plus it is the responsibility of competing paddlers to go to the assistance of any paddler that requires help. This will be stated at the race briefing.	Week commencing Monday 24 November 2025
Hazard due to paddlers not wearing buoyancy aids	Participants	1	5	5	Yes. Pre-race information states that "Buoyancy aids are compulsory for all Division 7, 8 and 9 paddlers. And that "Team Leaders are responsible for ensuring that paddlers are properly equipped having taken into account the paddler's health, fitness, capability, the course, the prevailing conditions and other risks associated with this race".	The Race Organiser will insist on paddlers wearing buoyancy aids if deemed necessary due to weather conditions. Entry will be refused for anyone not wearing one. Also anyone deemed not wearing appropriate clothing for the conditions will not be allowed to race.	Week commencing Monday 24 November 2025
Hazards due to fallen trees, blockages, debris etc. Also ice on the water.	Participants	2	2	4	There will be a course inspection and clearance one week prior to race, one day prior to race and early on race morning.	The Hazard if not removed will be mentioned at the race briefing. But if deemed too dangerous by the race organisers to the participants then the race will be cancelled or that section of the course will be amended.	Week commencing Monday 24 November 2025

Risk of hypothermia	Participants, marshals and spectators	1	5	5	Yes. If conditions are poor then paddlers will be advised regarding wearing appropriate clothing at the race briefing. Survival blankets and throwlines will be available at race control and at the 10 mile turn point.	First Aiders will be available to assist if required.	Week commencing Monday 24 November 2025
Collisions with other competitors or narrow-boats	Participants and public	2	4	8	Yes. Other canal users (narrow-boats). Permanent moorers will be informed. Paddlers will be reminded at the briefing that the "rules of the river" must be observed noting the inability of narrow-boats to stop or manoeuvre quickly and to give them a wide berth, including moored boats.		Week commencing Monday 24 November 2025
Action of other river or bank users (fishermen, punts, swimmers etc)	Participants, spectators and public	1	3	3	The local fishing community have been informed about the race.		Week commencing Monday 24 November 2025
Hazard due to aggressive swans	Participants on the water	1	2	2	The course will be checked in advance for any aggressive swans.	If necessary, participants will be briefed on the hazard.	Week commencing Monday 24 November 2025
Overhanging trees	Participants	1	3	3	Yes. Any such obstacles will be dealt with during the course clearance the day before the race.	If the overhang is deemed dangerous to the participants by the race organisers then either hazard tape will be used to mark the overhang or the race will be cancelled or the	Week commencing Monday 24 November 2025

						course amended.	
Pollution (including animal and bird waste/excreta) and also Weils disease. Diesel fuel leaking from motorised craft.	Participants and Spectators	1	2	2	Assessment of pollution levels made. The issue of Weils disease is stated in the briefing and there will be hand sanitisers available at the finish.	If pollution is deemed to be of such a high state or deemed dangerous by the race organisers then the Event will be cancelled. Water and canal bank animal/bird faeces cannot realistically be removed. Therefore, all briefings will make public announcements advising people to regularly wash their hands prior to touching their face, any food item, any drink or should they touch any waste, excreta, and/or hazardous items.	Week commencing Monday 24 November 2025
Possibility of invasive species transmitted by participants' boats.	Participants	1	2	2	This will be a condition of entry and will be included in the race entry and also in the briefing document. Will all paddlers please CHECK, CLEAN and DRY boats, paddles and kit (especially paddling shoes) before coming on site and if possible at least 24 hours before racing. Further guidance on how to stop the	Notice on the club Facebook page and also on the day.	Week commencing Monday 24 November 2025

					spread can be found at http://www.nonnativespecies.org/checkcleandry/		
Access to Race HQ	Participants and spectators	1	2	2	Yes. This is on the ground floor of the club building.	Check for any trip hazards before race HQ opens.	Week commencing Monday 24 November 2025
Provision of Toilets / hygiene	Participants and spectators	1	2	2	Yes. Toilets and showers are available at the Sports Club and toilets are also available at the Canoe Club.		
Food poisoning	Participants and spectators	1	3	3	Yes. Food will be prepared in clean and hygienic conditions. Alternative diets will be catered for if known in advance and, in these cases, cross contamination will be avoided (eg nut, dairy or gluten free foods). Dietary specialist foods will be clearly labelled.	All Food prep will be carried out by volunteers but food hygiene regulations will be strictly adhered to at all times. Food hygiene protective clothing and gloves will be worn. A fridge and cold storage containers will be available to store meat and dairy items.	Week commencing Monday 24 November 2025
Burns/scalds	Participants, organizers and spectators	1	3	3	Yes. Access to the food preparation areas, gas burners, water boiler etc will be restricted to the catering team. There is a first aid kit in the club if required. There is also access to cold water and a fire extinguisher.	First Aiders will be available to assist if required. Fire extinguishers, fire blankets and clean cold water will be positioned near to all cooking areas.	Week commencing Monday 24 November 2025

Contact details for emergency response	Participants and support crews	1	3	3	Yes. The race organiser will have access to the contact details of the emergency services, and all marshals on route. A telephone list will be prepared prior to race including the club land line which will be included in the race briefing document to all support crews and participants.	The Race Organisers will have mobile phones for use if required. Telephone list to be distributed to marshals and officials including the club land line.	Week commencing Monday 24 November 2025
Access for emergency vehicles	Participants and spectators	1	2	2	Yes. There is access to the race site for emergency vehicles.		Week commencing Monday 24 November 2025
First Aid coverage	Participants	1	2	2	Yes. There will be first aid kits at race control. Marshals will have access to a basic first aid kit which will include a survival bag or blanket.	First Aiders will be available to assist if required	Week commencing Monday 24 November 2025
Communication between Marshals who will be situated at the start and finish and will be identified via signs.	Participants	1	2	2	Yes. One of the organisers has been designated to co-ordinate all the marshals and to make sure all safety issues are communicated between them. A telephone list will be prepared prior to race.	Mobile telephone numbers will be passed between all Marshals & race organisers so full communication between all persons will be available at all times, Mobile phone coverage within the race location is currently of a satisfactory level.	Week commencing Monday 24 November 2025

Priority and courtesy to others.	Participants, supporters and volunteers,	1	2	2	Part of the race briefing.	At the race briefing.	Week commencing Monday 24 November 2025
Paddler and Participant Protection: (Child and Vulnerable paddler safeguarding). P1-British-Canoeing-Safeguarding-Children-Policy-January-2023.pdf (britishcanoeing.org.uk)	All on site.	1	5	5	BDCC Child (Paddler) Protection Officer and Junior Coordinator will be on site.	Highlight to Parents and team leaders in pre-race briefings their responsibility to supervise and account for all of their paddlers (and family members).	Week commencing Monday 24 November 2025

Note all boats will be licensed via the British Canoeing membership scheme and will validated via the MRC Race Entry System. All non-members of British Canoeing will purchase and event ticket.

LIKELIHOOD - SCORE 1-5 – the more likely it is that the hazard occurs the higher the score

CONSEQUENCES – SCORE 1-5 – the level of harm that will arise – the more harm the greater the score

Multiply the Likelihood score by the Consequences score to assess whether the risk is acceptable and the level of action required to control the risk.

Total Score = 1-6 low risk activity can take place, 8-15 medium risk put extra measures in place for activity to continue, 16-25 high risk activity should not take place as planned.

Graham Warland. 1st January 2025.