

# Risk Assessment Usk Mass start & Classic

Date:	28/04/2025
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Assessors Name:	Toby Peyton - Jones	Review Date:	Original
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Description of assessment	Wild Water Event Specific Risk Assessment: <b>USK Mass Start and Classic 2025</b>
Organisers and Experience	Toby E. Peyton-Jones, Current Flat Water & Ocean Racing Coach with 10 years paddling experience with 3 years of wild water racing experience and 2 years' experience running canoeing competitions on the river Dart, Devon.
Event Safety Officer	Jamie Christie, last event Safety course completed January 2025 (Toby E. Peyton-Jones will also have completed event Safety course as of May 2025)
Safeguarding	Toby E. Peyton-Jones, has completed a UK Coaching Safeguarding course that is accepted by Paddle UK. (expires Oct 2026)
First Aid	Toby E. Peyton-Jones 07594533157 is the qualified first aider on site for the event.

Location Details	<b>Usk Mass start and Classic.</b> The race runs from the bridge over the river at Talybont-on-usk to the bridge over the river at the GlanUsk Estate. The Classic race starts part way down the river at Buckland Mill and participants race down the river to the the Glanusk estate. The river gently flows meandering round bends with low banks, but steep at times for about 4km. The river then passes Buckland Mill where it slightly narrows and quickens. Along this section there a numerous shingly rocky rapids and 2 more distinct main features.
Safety Plan	<b>No safety cover is provided other than the provision details below.</b>
Emergency Plan	<b>In the Event of an Emergency or suspected emergency the organisers should be notified and the emergency services called.</b>
Welfare and Safeguarding Plan	<b>The event adopts the Paddle Uk policy for welfare and safeguarding, in the event of a suspected incident the organisers should be notified, and the emergency services will be contacted if required.</b>

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<b>Evacuation Plan</b>	<b>Local news sources and weather outlets will be monitors and if the wider areas needs to be evacuated it is presumed this will be co-ordinated by the relevant authorities or emergency services.</b>
<b>Incident reporting</b>	<b>Following any Safety, Emergency, Safeguarding or evacuation incident a Paddle UK incident form shall be submitted as a record of the situation.</b>

<b>What are the hazards?</b>	<b>Who might be harmed and how?</b>	<b>What are you already doing to control the risks?</b>	<b>What further action do you need to take to control the risks?</b>	<b>Who needs to carry out the action?</b>	<b>When is the action needed by?</b>	<b>Done</b>
Lack of Paddler Competence	Paddlers	<p>All entrants or person in “loco Parentis” must complete a separate WWR entry form stating the paddler is competent and fit to race the WWR race on the conditions and distance etc. on the day.</p> <p>Paddlers are solely responsible for their own competence, medical fitness, endurance to complete the race and issues and welfare undertaking the race in the conditions present on the day.</p> <p>All Paddlers and parents must follow instructions and comply with any safety, plans and directions from the organisers. It is their responsibility to acquaint themselves with this.</p> <p>Event description clearly describes the severity of course, and the fact that paddlers need to be self-supporting on the river section.</p>	Any new competitors to the race are asked to come and speak to the organisers immediately after the briefing	Event Organiser and competitor	<p>At the briefing</p> <p>A pre-race briefing will take place on the morning of the race in the egress field to ensure all competitors are aware of the timings of the race weekend and paddler etiquette on and off the water.</p> <p>A briefing will take place before the event in the form of a short meeting or by the issue of briefing notes.</p>	

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Other water users	Paddlers	<p>The river is open to other rivers users such as fishermen and other recreational paddlers,</p> <p>Competitors should be aware of this and treat anyone they interact with politely and assist if they come across anyone in difficulty.</p>				
Missing Paddler(s) & or Children	Paddlers	<p>All paddlers will have a start number and start time allocated. Start and finish numbers will be compared.</p> <p>Start list is organised as per the current rolling ranking system so those without a ranking start before more experience paddles who have a ranking and competed in other races.</p> <p>Paddlers will be briefed on ensuring they do not leave the race area without first reporting their withdrawal.</p>	<p>Event team to be in contact throughout the event to ensure that all expected paddlers are accounted for.</p> <p>Paddlers briefed as to their responsibility to others throughout the event.</p> <p>Paddlers/parents briefed on recommendation that no paddler under 16 should be allowed to move around the Venue for any reason e.g. taking canoes to the river, going to the toilets etc., on their own (nor be left on their own).</p>	Event Organiser Start and Finish Team	On the day and at the Briefing	
Injury to Non-Paddlers and Members of the Public	Public Event Team Spectators	First Aider is available	<p>Paddlers briefed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- not to block footpaths</li> <li>- take care when they move boats and equipment around the site.</li> <li>- boats to be secured in windy weather.</li> </ul>	Event Organiser Paddlers	On the day	

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Moving Water	<p>Paddlers</p> <p>Event Safety Team</p> <p>Starter</p> <p>Spectators</p>	<p>All WWR paddlers or officials getting on the water MUST wear a buoyancy aid. ALL paddlers MUST also wear a safety helmet.</p> <p>Spray decks are highly recommended</p> <p>It is recommended officials doing start and finish and parents, spectators etc., if on the bank and potentially prepared to intervene in a rescue wear a buoyancy aid.</p> <p>Any official or spectator holding a throw bag must also be wearing a buoyancy aid.</p> <p>No on the water safety cover is provided at this event paddlers are responsible for their own and the safety of fellow competitors when on the water.</p> <p>Any competitor coming across another competitor in trouble must stop and give assistance.</p> <p>Each competitor must wait on the water at the finish for the next 2 competitors to finish before leaving the water.</p> <p>Chaperones are allowed to accompany less competent paddlers during the race</p>	Paddler safety to be discuss at the briefing	Event Organiser	On the day at Briefing	
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Drowning	Paddlers	<p>All paddlers are required to wear and approved buoyancy aid, each paddler is responsible for ensuring the buoyancy aid is in good condition and suitable for the event.</p> <p>Any competitor coming across another competitor in trouble must stop and give assistance.</p>	Reminder given at the race briefing	Event Organiser	On the Day	
Injury - body, inc manual handling	Paddlers Event Team	<p>All WWR canoes and Kayaks must comply with the current <u>WWR safety rules</u></p> <p>Volunteers and Safety Team briefed on Manual Handling</p>	First Aider is available	Event Organiser/First Aider	On the day	
Slips and Trips	Paddlers Event Team Spectators	The banks can be very slippery and the mud much deeper than you think, ensure you get in and out on firm ground/banks	<p>Paddlers &amp; Volunteers briefed to take care getting in and out of WWC due to slippery banks</p> <p>First Aider is available</p>	<p>Event Organiser/First Aider</p> <p>Paddlers &amp; volunteers</p>	On the day	
Entrapment or injury from hazards on the course - Trees - Boats - damaged WWC - Throwlines	Paddlers Event Team	<p>River Usk is reliant upon rain fall, the race will be run in moderate river levels. In exceptional weather conditions the river can reach flood conditions. If the level is deemed too High or too Low the race may be cancelled. The race organiser will coordinate with the organiser team and communicate via verbal and social media post (website) to changes or cancellations.</p>	<p>River conditions are assessed on the day and competitors are advised of any specific risks at the briefing.</p> <p>River conditions are assessed on the day of the race and the course can be changed to reduce the risks of entrapment.</p>	Event Organiser	On the day at the briefing	

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		<p>The river Usk is a natural river with many natural obstacles it is lined with trees, rock overhangs and other hazards. Even at low water levels these can present a hazard of entrapment around rocks or in trees. Paddlers must familiarise.</p> <p>The river often has low hanging trees or fallen trees in the water which can present an entrapment risk. Any specific hazards will be highlighted during the briefing or detailed in the briefing notes.</p>	<p>Review water levels and weather conditions in the days running up to the event to prepare additional mitigations if required. E.g. live gauges upstream will be monitored <a href="https://check-for-flooding.service.gov.uk/station/2158">https://check-for-flooding.service.gov.uk/station/2158</a></p>			
Poor Water Quality	Paddlers Event Team	<p>Water quality is not monitored, and competitors compete at their own risk.</p> <p>Event has an Emergency Plan to be followed, including evacuation procedures</p>	<p>Paddlers briefed to wash hands and shower after being on and around the water</p>	Event organiser	At the Briefing	
ILL HEALTH and or INJURY	Paddlers Event Team	<p>Event has an Emergency Plan to be followed, including evacuation procedures</p>	<p>First Aider is available Paddlers briefed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- pull to a safe area if possible and rest on the bank</li> <li>- Report to safety team/organisers or first aid</li> <li>- look out for each other and assist paddlers in trouble.</li> </ul>	Event organiser/First Aider Paddlers	On the Day	

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HYPOTHERMIA / HEAT STROKE	Paddlers Event Team Spectators	.  First Aider is available  Paddlers briefed  wear clothing appropriate to conditions and that suits your own bodily temperature control needs		Event Organiser First Aider		
Lightning Strike	Paddlers Event Team Spectators	If there are concerns about potential storms. Lightning will be tracked using a site such <a href="http://www.lightningmaps.org">www.lightningmaps.org</a> . If lightning is within 10km of the event, racing will immediately stop, paddlers will be removed from the water as quickly as possible and all will be advised to seek shelter.	Monitoring of lightning in place	Event Organiser	On the day	
High Winds	Paddlers Event Team Spectators	Boats and paddlers equipment secured when not in use	Review conditions on the day	Event Organiser	On the day	
WEILS DISEASE	Paddlers Event Team	Hand Sanitizer will be available from the first aider.	Paddler and volunteer briefing on hazards and symptoms: Precautions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Avoid capsize drill or rolling in stagnant or slow moving water</li> <li>- Wash or shower after canoeing Cover minor scratches on exposed parts of the body with water-proof plaster</li> </ul>	Event Organiser Paddlers Event Volunteers	On the Day	

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Use foot-wear to avoid cutting feet Should you become ill after canoeing (2-19 days) with a flu-like illness (temperature, aching limbs &amp; joints) call your doctor and tell him/her you are a canoeist and may have come into contact with the Leptospirosis bacteria</li> </ul> <p>Paddlers briefed to report any infection to Paddle UK incident reporting</p>			
Safeguarding or Welfare incident	Paddlers Event Team Spectators	Paddle UK Safeguarding processes to be followed  Trained Event Safeguarding Officer to manage concerns during the event.	U18 or vulnerable paddlers to be the responsibility of & supervised by parent / coach / club throughout the event	Event Organiser	Monitored during the event	
Equipment Failure (Catastrophic)	Event Team Paddlers	All Competitors are responsible for ensuring their equipment is fit for purpose and meets manufacturer specifications  Event has an Emergency Plan to be followed	,			
Equipment Failure (Organisational Risk)	Event Team Paddle UK	Equipment maintained and regularly checked	Back-up manual system available if required			

Office use only (to be completed by a risk assessment sampler if selected for sampling)



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Sampled by		Position:		Date:	
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