

Risk Assessment Holme Pierrepont

Date:	18 th July 2026
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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: Holme Pierrepont White Water Course – National Classic & Sprint Events – 17th 18th October
Organisers and Experience	The event is organised by the WWR Committee. The lead organiser on behalf of the WWRC is Toby Peyton-Jones. The event organising team comprises, Toby Peyton-Jones, Current WWR paddler with 10 years of paddling experience and 3 years of running wild water competitions.
Event Safety Officer(s)	Toby Peyton-Jones, last event Safety course completed May 2025,
Safeguarding	Helen Christie, is a retired primary school teacher and has completed the PUK Safeguarding training courses as identified and a Scouting Safeguarding course that is accepted by Paddle UK.

Location Details	Holme Pierrepont White Water Course, Adbolton Ln, Holme Pierrepont, Nottingham NG12 2LU The Classic Race involves paddling first through flat but moving, sometimes turbulent (grade 1) water from Nottingham Kayak Club, then through the HPP white water course to finish at the bottom. Weir – The white water course is a 700m purpose-built channel, and is designed for paddlesports, the site was refurbished in 2012 and fitted with moveable rapid blocs to create white water features. The Sprint Race takes place down the white-water course only. There is parking and public access to the site, with footpaths running the length of the course. The course will be closed to other paddlers during competition.
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	The location is part of a country park and there are often members of the public on the banks of the course. The classic will start at the Nottingham Kayak Club
Safety Plan	Safety cover will be provided. It is planned to have on the bank safety cover with people that have completed the Stadium Safety course. It is also a requirement in the WWR racing rules that at least 2 racers remain at the finish until the next paddler completes the course. A minimum of 2 water safety personnel that have completed the Stadium Safety course will be on bank-side, they will be named in the Event Plan. BA/Life jackets will be worn. Each person will have a throw-line and a knife. In addition to the dedicated bank-side team, there will be a coaches and supporters within view of the course who have competence and experience in water safety and rescue. In the event of a serious incident they would be available to support as required. The bank side safety will be located down stream of the 2 highest risk areas for WWR racers. 1) Below the Bridge in the Looping Pool area and 2) Below the Muncher. The nominated first aider is Toby Peyton-Jones, Helen Christie and Jamie Christie also hold valid first aiding qualifications.
Emergency Plan	In the Event of an Emergency or suspected emergency the organisers should be notified and the emergency services called.
Welfare and Safeguarding Plan	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.
Evacuation Plan	HPP Site Emergency procedures appended to this risk assessment.
Incident reporting	Following any Safety, Emergency, Safeguarding or evacuation incident a Paddle UK incident form shall be submitted as a record of the situation.

What are the hazards?	Who might be harmed and how?	What are you already doing to control the risks?	What further action do you need to take to control the risks?	Who needs to carry out the action?	When is the action needed by?	Done
Lack of Paddler Competence	Paddlers	All entrants or person in "loco Parentis" must complete a separate WWR entry form stating the paddler is competent and fit to race the	Any new competitors to the race are asked to come and speak to the organisers immediately after the briefing	Event Organiser and competitor	At the briefing	

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		WWR race on the conditions and distance etc. on the day. 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. 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. Event description clearly describes the severity of course, and the fact that paddlers need to be self-supporting on the river section.	A briefing will take place The white water section of the course will be covered by qualified white water safety personnel.	Event Organiser Safety lead	Before start During event	
Other water users	Paddlers	The river is open to other rivers users such as fishermen, boats owners and other recreational paddlers, Competitors should be aware of this and treat anyone they interact with politely and assist if they come across anyone in difficulty.	Paddlers to be made aware during briefing and event literature	Organiser	Before start	
Missing Paddler(s) & or Children	Paddlers	All paddlers will have a start number and start time allocated. Start and finish numbers will be compared. 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. Paddlers will be briefed on ensuring they do not leave the race area without first reporting their withdrawal. As per WWR rules, each competitor must wait on the water at the finish for the next 2 competitors to finish before leaving the water.	Event team to be in contact throughout the event to ensure that all expected paddlers are accounted for. Paddlers briefed as to their responsibility to others throughout the event. 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).	Event Organiser Start and Finish Team	On the day During event	

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		The final 2 competitors must wait until the finisher tells them they can get off the water.				
Injury to Non-Paddlers and Members of the Public	Public Event Team Spectators	First Aider is available	Paddlers briefed: - not to block footpaths - take care when they move boats and equipment around the site. - boats to be secured in windy weather. Event First Aid Cover in place for the event	Event Organiser Paddlers	On the day	
Moving Water	Paddlers Event Safety Team Starter Spectators	All WWR paddlers or officials getting on the water MUST wear a buoyancy aid and helmet. 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. Any competitor coming across another competitor in trouble must stop and give assistance. As per WWR rules, each competitor must wait on the water at the finish for the next 2 competitors to finish before leaving the water. The final 2 competitors must wait until the finisher tells them they can get off the water.	Paddler safety to be discussed at the briefing Only paddlers, officials, water safety personnel and designated photographers are permitted over the barrier at the WWC. Anyone else is encouraged to vacate the area. Anyone inside the barrier at the WWC must wear a Buoyancy Aid/Life Jacket and have received a safety briefing. Competent water safety team* on hand on WWC to rescue from the water where necessary.* (See Safety Plan section at start of document for specific details)	Safety Lead Safety Lead Safety Lead Safety Lead	On the day On the day On the day On the day	

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Drowning	Paddlers	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. Any competitor coming across another competitor in trouble must stop and give assistance.	Reminder given at the race briefing	Event Organiser	On the Day	
Head Injury	Paddlers Organisers Safety Team	Helmets are mandatory at this event. Paddle UK Head Injury Guidance to be followed Event has an Emergency Plan to be followed, including evacuation procedures	Event First Aid Cover in place for the event Safety Team briefed on Head Injury Protocol and how to inform race control Event First Aid Cover in place for the event*** (See Safety Plan section for specific details)	Event Organiser Safety Lead	On the Day On the Day	
Injury - body, inc manual handling	Paddlers Event Team	All WWR canoes and Kayaks must comply with the current WWR safety rules Volunteers and Safety Team briefed on Manual Handling	Event First Aid Cover in place for the event	Safety Lead & First Aider	On the day	
Slips and Trips	Paddlers Event Team Spectators	HPP is open to the public, normal care should be taken Public and Spectators informed via signage not to approach the edge	Paddlers & Volunteers briefed to take care getting in and out of WWC due to slippery banks Event First Aid Cover in place for the event	Event Organiser/First Aider Paddlers & volunteers	On the day	
Entrapment or injury from hazards on the course - Trees - Boats - damaged WWC - Throwlines	Paddlers Event Team	The river (Classic Course) is a natural water course which is lined by trees, bushes and other plants, under normal river conditions these pose little risk. As the river level increases, and the flow increases, and the risk of a paddler or	River conditions are assessed on the day and competitors are advised of any specific risks at the briefing. If necessary an alternative race course will be used.	Event Organiser Event Organiser	On the day On the day	

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		swimmer being inadvertently pushed into a tree or bush and becoming entrapped increases. White Water course designed to avoid entrapment Paddlers are able to exit their boat easily where straps are used (C1&C2) Paddlesafer guidance will be followed Event has an Emergency Plan to be followed	Course recce and course walk completed prior to event to identify additional risks Paddlers briefed: - DO NOT cut over chains or ropes from moored boats - Take care to avoid overhanging trees on the river The bank-side team will be on hand to help anyone out of the water on the WWC.	Event Organiser Event Organiser Safety Lead	On the day On the day On the day	
Poor Water Quality	Paddlers Event Team	NWSC site monitors water quality & will close course if levels are exceeded or make additional mitigation recommendations Event has an Emergency Plan to be followed, including evacuation procedures	Review water quality to prepare additional mitigations if required Paddlers briefed to wash hands and shower after being on and around the water and if it is preferred, to drink Coke	Event organiser Event organiser	Before event At the Briefing	
ILL HEALTH and or INJURY	Paddlers Event Team	Event has an Emergency Plan to be followed, including evacuation procedures	Event First Aid Cover in place for the event Paddlers briefed - pull to a safe area if possible and rest on the bank - Report to safety team/organisers or first aid - look out for each other and assist paddlers in trouble.	Event organiser/First Aider Paddlers	On the Day	
HYPOTHERMIA / HEAT STROKE	Paddlers Event Team Spectators	Event Venue (HPP) has Warm areas to rewarm anyone suspected of Hypothermia. HPP has on site drinking water availability	Event First Aid Cover in place for the event Paddlers briefed	Event Organiser First Aider	On the day	

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		Event has an Emergency Plan to be followed, including evacuation procedures	- wear clothing appropriate to conditions and that suits your own bodily temperature control needs - pull to a safe area if possible and rest on the bank - Report to safety team/organisers or first aid - look out for each other and assist paddlers in trouble			
High water levels	Paddlers Event Team	The White water course is normally closed when the water level at Colwich reaches 2.2m. Under certain circumstances the course can still be used with additional safety measures in place. Event has an Emergency Plan to be followed, including evacuation procedures	Review water levels and weather conditions in the weeks running up to the event to prepare additional mitigations if required Event Emergency Plan contains suspension and cancelation protocols	Event Organiser	In the run up and on the day	
Lightning Strike	Paddlers Event Team Spectators	If there are concerns about potential storms. Lightning will be tracked using a site such www.lightningmaps.org . 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	Event Infrastructure (gazebos, fencing, signage) secured as per manufacturer guidance where available Boats and paddlers equipment secured when not in use	Review conditions on the day	Event Organiser	On the day	

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WEILS DISEASE	Paddlers Event Team	Washing Facilities are available on site	Paddler and volunteer briefing on hazards and symptoms: Precautions: - Avoid capsize drill or rolling in stagnant or slow moving water - Wash or shower after canoeing Cover minor scratches on exposed parts of the body with water-proof plaster - Use foot-wear to avoid cutting feet Should you become ill after canoeing (2-19 days) with a flu-like illness (temperature, aching limbs & joints) call your doctor and tell him/her you are a canoeist and may have come into contact with the Leptospirosis bacteria Paddlers briefed to report any infection to Paddle UK incident reporting	Event Organiser Paddlers Event Volunteers	On the Day	
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 SG Officer to be mentioned at the briefing	Monitored during the event	
Equipment Failure (Catastrophic)	Event Team Paddlers	All event equipment checked and maintained to manufacturer specifications All Competitors are responsible for ensuring their equipment is fit for purpose and meets manufacturer specifications Event has an Emergency Plan to be followed	Scrutineering checks will be carried out on the day.	Event Organiser	On the day	

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Equipment Failure (Organisational Risk)	Event Team Paddle UK	Equipment maintained and regularly checked	Back-up manual system available if required			
BioSecurity BioSecurity breach, inadvertent spread of non native species	Other water locations through spread of Non – native Species	General awareness of Bio Security amongst paddling community	Competitors briefed on Bio Security and made aware of wash down stations x3 Bio Security at HP RA 2025 available for reference.	Event Organiser and competitor	At the briefing	

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

Sampled by		Position:		Date:	
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Notes:

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HPP NWSC Wild Water Course Emergency Plan

Emergency Response Plan

Duty Manager Number 07769 878 668

The WWR Emergency Response Plan defines the actions to be taken if an incident happens whilst using the HPP White Water course. It will help to reduce the harm that such an incident could cause.

Expectations

Everyone is expected to:

- Understand and in an emergency follow the Emergency Response Plan
- Follow the Instructions of the Coach or individual taking charge of the incident.
- Report any incident or condition that could give rise to an emergency.
- Report Incidents and near misses back to British Canoeing

Coach and Athlete Expectations:

- Work within the boundaries of the Risk Assessments-‘Generic Canoe Sport and HPP White Water Course’, Risk Management of Water Access document and the WWR Emergency Response Plan
- Discuss and brief individuals of any extra safety concerns prior to the start of the session.
- Understand the process for summoning assistance in case of an emergency.
- Knowing the location of the White-Water Course including postcode and directions for emergency services
- A fully charged mobile phone with emergency phone numbers for Duty Manager and other coaches pre-programmed in case further assistance is required.
- Carry appropriate safety equipment and provide adequate First Aid cover.

Actions in the Event of an Emergency (for athletes and coaches):

