

Risk Assessment River Trent at Stafford and Stone Canoe Club- Sprint Section.

Date:	22 th September 2026
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Assessors Name:	Kerry Christie	Review Date:	Original
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Description of assessment	Wild Water Event Specific Risk Assessment: River Trent at Stafford and Stone Canoe Club– Wavehopper Champs event– 24 th October 2026
Organisers and Experience	The event is organised by Stafford and Stone Canoe Club. The lead organiser on behalf of S & S is Kerry Christie. Kerry has around 4 years of experience of event organisation having run small grass roots events over this time and has helped in the organisation of many more.
Event Safety Officer	Jamie Christie, last event safety course completed 2025.
Safeguarding	Helen Christie has completed a Scouting Safeguarding course that is accepted by Paddle UK.

Location Details	Stafford and Stone Canoe Club, Westbridge Park, Stafford Rd, Stone, ST15 8QW The Wavehopper Champs will be run on a section of the river Trent at S and S CC, it is mainly flat water, with moderate flow ending in a small Grade 1 rapid. 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. The location is adjacent to a public park and there are often members of the public on the banks of the course.
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Risk Assessment River Trent at Stafford and Stone Canoe Club- Sprint Section.

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. The event will also be supported by competent, experienced athletes both on and off the water. The course has nearly complete visibility from any point, there will be a person posted on the outside of the bend towards the end of the course who will have full visibility of the while course. The nominated first aider is Jamie Christie
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	As per site rules and/or direction from emergency services
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 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	Any new competitors to the race are asked to come and speak to the organisers immediately after the briefing A briefing will take place The white water section of the course will be covered by qualified white water safety personnel.	Event Organiser and competitor Event Organiser Safety lead	At the briefing Before start During event	

Risk Assessment River Trent at Stafford and Stone Canoe Club- Sprint Section.

		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.				
Other water users	Paddlers	The race section will be closed to other water users throughout the duration of the race.	Paddlers to be made aware during briefing and event literature	Organiser	Before start	
Missing Paddler(s) & or Children	Paddlers	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. The final 2 competitors must wait until the finisher tells them they can get off 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	
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	

Risk Assessment River Trent at Stafford and Stone Canoe Club- Sprint Section.

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. Competent water safety team* on hand on the river to rescue from the water where necessary.* (See Safety Plan section at start of document for specific details)	Safety Lead Safety Lead	On the day On the day	
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	

Risk Assessment River Trent at Stafford and Stone Canoe Club- Sprint Section.

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	The river bank and club 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 the river 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 - Throwlines	Paddlers Event Team	The river 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 swimmer being inadvertently pushed into a tree or bush and becoming entrapped increases. 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	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. 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 Event Organiser Event Organiser Safety Lead	On the day On the day On the day On the day On the day	

Risk Assessment River Trent at Stafford and Stone Canoe Club- Sprint Section.

Poor Water Quality	Paddlers Event Team	Event has an Emergency Plan to be followed, including evacuation procedures	Paddlers briefed to wash hands and shower after being on and around the water and if it is preferred, to drink Coke	Event organiser	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 has Warm areas to rewarm anyone suspected of Hypothermia. S and S CC has on site drinking water availability Event has an Emergency Plan to be followed, including evacuation procedures	Event First Aid Cover in place for the event Paddlers briefed - 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	Event Organiser First Aider	On the day	
High water levels	Paddlers Event Team	River levels and weather forecast to be monitored in the days before the event. 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	

Risk Assessment River Trent at Stafford and Stone Canoe Club- Sprint Section.

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	
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	

Risk Assessment River Trent at Stafford and Stone Canoe Club- Sprint Section.

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	
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)

Sampled by		Position:		Date:	
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