

# GB Wild Water Racing

## Site Specific Risk Assessment: The Barrow Loop, Barrow on Soar, Leicester

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Reviewed and updated by: Jamie Christie 30<sup>th</sup> September 2020

### RISK ASSESSMENT

L=LOW RISK (IF ADVICE FOLLOWED); M=MEDIUM RISK AND H=HIGH RISK (IF ANY RACE RISK DEEMED HIGH THEN RACE TO BE MOVED OR CANCELLED DUE TO BEING ADVERTISED AS SUITABLE FOR NOVICES)

HAZARDS	RISK TO WHOM	RISK AVOIDANCE, ACTIONS AND ADVICE	RATING IF PRECAUTIONS ETC FOLLOWED
<b>PADDLER CONTROL</b>	Paddlers	<p>A short briefing for both races will be held prior to the start of the WWR race by a member of the organisation</p> <p>All entrants or person in “loco Parentis” must complete a separate WWR entry form stating paddler is competent and fit to race the WWR race on the conditions and distance etc. on the day.</p> <p>Paddlers, spectators and parents etc. to follow instructions and safety, site etc. plans and directions from the organisers. It is their responsibility to acquaint themselves with this.</p>	L
<b>RACE ORGANISER</b>	Organisation	Soar Valley Canoe Club on behalf of Wild Water Racing Committee as part of British Canoeing either individual or as a member of a British Canoeing affiliated club: Hold a 10 million pound third party liability insurance.	L
<b>INSURANCE COVER CHECKS</b>	Organisation and Paddlers	<p>All competitors will be checked for insurance cover at race entry as either having:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> British Canoeing membership.</li> <li> Affiliated club British Canoeing membership.</li> <li> British Canoeing membership by buying a day ticket</li> </ul> <p><b>NOTE: Paddlers in the Ranking Taster Classic Wavehopper and non-ranking open Race DO NOT need to buy a British Canoeing Day ticket if a non-member</b></p>	L
<b>COMPETENCE</b>	Paddlers	<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 entrants will complete an entry form stating competence (see separate form). For Under 18 paddlers, an adult with “Loco Parentis” for them entering</p>	L

		and attempting the race and with knowledge of their ability will be required to sign as to their competence to race on the conditions on race day.	
<b>START AND FINISH NUMBERS MATCHING</b>	Organisation and Paddlers	All paddlers will have a start number and start time allocated. Start and finish numbers will be compared. Paddlers will be briefed on ensuring they do not leave the race area without first reporting their withdrawal. Contact details will be held on entry forms if needed.	L
<b>SITE SPECIFIC</b>			
<b>NON PADDLERS &amp; MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC</b>	Both	The location is popular and next to a campsite so there can be plenty of people in the vicinity of the race. Paddlers should watch when they move boats around, paddles etc. Also it is suggested no paddler under 16 should be allowed to move around the centre for any reason e.g. taking canoes to river, going to the toilets etc., on their own (nor be left on their own).	L
<b>PROTECTED LAND AND PRIVATELY OWNED LAND</b>	Both	Much of the race course has a public footpath along both banks of the course but there are also areas of private property which must be respected by all.	L
<b>WATER GETTING IN AND OUT</b>			
<b>GETTING IN AND OUT</b>	Paddlers and spectators	All WWR paddlers and spectators or officials getting on the water MUST wear a buoyancy aid.  Spray decks are highly recommended  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.  Paddlers to be careful getting in and out and request assistance if required.	L
<b>MUDDY BANKS</b>	Paddlers and 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	L
<b>RIVER CONDITIONS</b>	Paddlers	River Soar is a natural river lined with trees and other hazards. The canal is also part of the river. At low water these present little risk, however the river can rise rapidly in wet weather and as the river rises the risk of becoming entangled and entrapped in trees and other hazards increases, quickly. Any specific hazards will be highlighted during the briefing. We often recommend younger participants are escorted, we can sometimes help and provide escorts down the course.	L
<b>CONDITIONS E.G. WIND,WEATHER ETC.,</b>	Paddlers and Spectators	<b>Review on day of race. Option includes course changes shorter or circular nearer to the start or cancellation.</b>	L
<b>BOATS MOORED AND CHAINS/ ROPES</b>	Paddlers	There are a few place where boats are moored with chains, ropes etc., between them or mooring them DO NOT cut over these you can get trapped or pulled under	L
<b>RIVER TRAFFIC</b>	Paddlers	There may be some boat traffic on the canal section, there is little traffic on the river. Competitors are reminded to treat all other user with respect.	L

<b>OVER HANGING TREES BRANCHES ETC</b>	Paddlers and Spectators	In low water the risk is low and most trees and obstacles are above the water, as the river rises the risk of becoming entangled and entrapped in trees and other hazards increases, quickly. Any specific hazards will be highlighted during the briefing.	L
<b>CAPSIZE</b>			
<b>CAPSIZE</b>	Paddlers	<p><b>IN ALL CASES THE PADDLER TAKES PRIORITY OVER SAVING BOAT AND/OR EQUIPMENT</b></p> <p><b>WWR code of conduct requires all paddlers to offer support to other paddlers when requested or if they see someone in potential difficulty with penalty of disqualification for life from competitive canoeing unless at risk/danger themselves.</b></p> <p>The paddler should get to the bank as quickly as possible with their canoe and paddle if they can. If they need help they MUST stop the next paddlers by calling for help from them. The water current may be strong and some paddlers may have difficulty in swimming against this. The finished paddlers must be alert to the paddlers on the race course and go to help immediately. Experienced paddlers will be asked to stay on the water (if they agree) to assist with safety in addition to the two finish paddlers on standby.</p> <p><b>NB: If a boat is lost downstream then please let the race organisation know so emergency service can be notified to prevent any unnecessary searches being started.</b></p>	L
<b>BOAT SPECIFIC</b>			
<b>SAFETY CLOTHING AND EQUIPMENT</b>		<p>CHECK YOUR KIT BEFORE YOU LEAVE HOME THOSE 40 YEAR OLD WOODEN PADDLES MAY HAVE BEEN GOOD 40 YEARS AGO BUT ARE THEY NOW!!!!</p> <p>Paddlers are required to ensure their safety clothing and equipment is in accordance with current safety regulations in WWR.</p>	L
<b>CANOE FLOTATION</b>	Paddlers	All boat must comply with the current wwr safety rules	L
<b>HELMETS</b>	Paddler	The race encompasses a section of can and flat meandering river and competitors are not required to wear helmets.	
<b>ILL HEALTH INJURY</b>			
<b>ILL HEALTH and or INJURY</b>	Paddlers	If you can pull to the side or safe bank area, or an area you can beach boat or hold on safely to something if you can get out and rest on bank. Call for help in any situation and report to the race organiser for first aid or treatment on site or wider help. Contact to race first Aider.	L
<b>HYPOTHERMIA/HEAT STROKE</b>	Paddlers and spectators	Paddlers can withdraw from race by attracting other paddlers' attention.	L

		Wear clothing appropriate to conditions and that suits your own bodily temperature control needs.	
<b>WEILS DISEASE</b>	Paddlers	<p><b>WEIL'S DISEASE</b></p> <p>Weil's Disease is a RARE but very serious illness which is caused by bacteria carried in the urine of rats (and some other animals). It can be contracted anywhere but especially around waterways. The descending scale of risk is: Stagnant water, canals and slow moving rivers (particularly after flash floods), swifter streams.</p> <p>Precautions:</p> <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> <li>• Use foot-wear to avoid cutting feet</li> </ul> <p>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 - see your Yearbook Contact the British Canoeing Office for more information – see for standard handout please.</p>	L
<b>FIRST AID</b>	All Participants	<b>Jamie Christie 07736 959396 is the qualified first aider on site for the event.</b>	
<b>EMERGENCY</b>			
<b>EMERGENCY</b>	Paddlers and Spectators	<b>Call 999 or 112 and request the correct service, explain the situation and contact the race organiser as soon as possible.</b>	L

## COVID SPECIFIC RISK ASSESSMENT

<b>Organisation</b>	Organisers	During the Covid era the organisation will be based outside and wear face masks whilst dealing with competitor queries	L
<b>Entries</b>	Paddlers/organisers	We encourage all paddler to enter in advance along with payment. We will accept late entries. We will accept cash payments which can be deposited in a container, only the correct entry fee will be accepted and no change given. Cash will be left unhandled for 5 days after the event. We are also exploring contactless payment options.	L
<b>Late Entries</b>	All participants	The organiser will accept late entries as an exception, they will be based outside. Any payments will be made directly into a container and no change given. After the race the container will be sealed and left for a number of days before processing. Late entries will be given the next available number at the	L

		end of the startlist.	
<b>Start List</b>	Paddlers/spectators/organiser	A Start list will be published on the wwr website and social media shortly after closing of advanced entries, no start list will on display at the venue to avoid participants congregating. Late entries will be added to the end of the start list and will not be ranked. Numbers will be give with the late entry.	L
<b>Race Numbers</b>	Paddlers	No bibs will be issued, race number must be displayed clearly on the front of the boat in a clear way that is visible to the organisers	L
<b>Travel to the Event</b>	All participants	Is outside the control of the organisers. It is advised everyone attending the event should check the latest government advise before travelling with regards the car sharing and minibus travel and social distancing.	L
<b>Accommodation</b>	All Participants	Is outside the control of the organisers. Overnight accommodation is , currently permitted, participants needs to assess the level of risk present to them as an individual and take any precautions necessary.	L
<b>Camping</b>	All Participants	No Camping should be required	L
<b>Pub Facilities</b>	All Participants	We are currently talking to the Soar Bridge in and if able to use their facilities we will follow their Covid requirements	L
<b>Toilet Facilities</b>	All Participants	Toilet facilities are available in the Pub. Soap and hand sanitiser will be provided but we advise participants to also bring their own. Toilets will be checked for cleanliness during the day, the pub is responsible for maintaining their cleanliness.	L
<b>When on site</b>	All Participants	Each individual needs to maintain social distancing. No gathering of more that 6 people is permitted unless from the same household or bubble.	L
<b>Briefing</b>	Paddlers	No briefing will take place unless conditions require the organisation to advise of adverse condition. If a briefing is required, it will be done outside and everyone should wear a mask and maintain social distancing.	L
<b>Practice</b>	Paddlers	Any practice of the racecourse is outside the organisers control and at the paddlers own risk.	L
<b>Race Organisers Starters and Finishers</b>	Organisation	Organisation should be able to maintain 2m distance most of the time, when this is not possible masks will be worn.	L
<b>Boat Scrutineering</b>	Paddler/Organisers	No boat Scrutineering will take place.	L
<b>Crew Boats</b>	Paddlers	Crew boats are permitted but greatly increase the risk of transmitting Covid, participants need to understand these risks and decide for themselves if they are want to partake. The Organisation assumes that crews train together regularly and do not mix and match. No multiple crew boat entries will be permitted.	L
<b>The Race</b>	Paddlers	The race is Time trial format with starts at 1 minute intervals and social distancing should be possible at all times. Paddlers should take care at the start during their warm up and at the finish whilst doing their safety cover and warm down before leaving the water.	L
<b>Results</b>	All Participants	No results will be published at the site, these will be posted on the website and social media as soon as possible. After publishing, a 30 minute protest	L

		time will be allowed after which time if no protests are made they will become the official results.	
<b>Post race</b>	All Participants	Everyone is reminded not to congregate after the race but to leave the venue as soon as possible.	L
<b>Timing Equipment</b>	Organisers	Timers packs will be prepared a few days prior to the event and issued to a timer at the event. Each timer will keep the same pack for the entire event. It will contain Stopwatches, clipboards, start sheets, pens. All organisers will be given a small jar of hand sanitiser to use as they require through the event. No other shared equipment is required.	L
<b>Track and Trace</b>	All Participants	As part of the entry process each paddler must add the details of anyone they will be travelling with which will be passed to track and trace services if required should the need arise.	
<b>Signage</b>	All Participants	There will be limited signage at the event to remind participants of social distancing, regular reminders will be sent to all participants via social media during the event from the organisers.	
<b>Prize Giving</b>	All Participants	No prize giving will take place	