

HXCC Home Water Risk Assessment

Date of Assessment 11 March 2018
Signed L Ford

Assessment Review Date March 2019

Activity: Club coached sessions on 'Home Waters' - all year round

Home Waters are defined as: the stretch of the river Calder from below the Double Weir down to the egress steps at the bottom of the white water course and the canal between Luddendenfoot and Salterhebble locks (**see note below re circular trips**). *A map of the club's 'home waters' is attached.*

Hazard	Who might be harmed	Is the risk adequately controlled	What further action is necessary to control the risk
Water levels / River Conditions	All paddlers	Sessions to be lead by appropriately qualified Coaches/ Leaders approved by Committee – see below for rules applying to the approved list. Coaches to be familiar with River Conditions Policy and must check river levels prior to sessions starting. All club activities to be run in accordance with River Conditions Policy for the prevailing water conditions. Recent / forecast weather and river levels to be monitored and sessions shortened / amended as required	Coach Induction annually to acknowledge policy. Leader judgement calls to be upheld.
Manual Handling	All paddlers and parents/ volunteers	All paddlers to be taught good lifting techniques and used throughout activities. Particular advice and care needed lifting around access to wooden bridge and on egress steps. Young people to carry kayaks in pairs (with other paddlers / parents). Team lifts to be used for open canoes.	Good practice to be reinforced by coaches throughout all activities
Equipment	All paddlers and parents/ volunteers	All equipment to be checked regularly by Equipment Officer as per Equipment Policy. Coaches to visually inspect equipment prior to use. Any defective equipment to be clearly marked and put out of use and reported to Equipment Officer for repair / replacement. Coaches to check and replace defective airbags in kayaks.	Ongoing inspection and removal/reporting of defective equipment
Drowning	All paddlers	Participants should be able to swim in canoeing clothing (inc Buoyancy Aid) Buoyancy Aids complying with CE standards to be worn at all times. BAs sized and fitted for individuals. Checks are made by leaders. BAs undergo flotation checks annually as laid out in BCU guidelines. Sessions to be lead by appropriately qualified Coaches/ Leaders approved by Committee – see below for rules applying to the approved list.	Ongoing inspection and removal/reporting of defective equipment
Hypothermia / Hyperthermia	All paddlers	All to wear warm clothing as appropriate to the weather conditions – coaches to advise paddlers accordingly. Beginners course information to be clear on equipment required. Some spare waterproof tops available at the club for use. Leader to make a judgement on shortening / cancelling sessions.	Coach advice and judgement calls to be upheld.

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Head / Spinal injuries	All paddlers	Kayaking - Helmets to be worn at all times. Open Canoe – helmets to worn at all times on white water and at all times by juniors. Coach judgement call on adults wearing helmets on flat water depending on experience of paddlers and nature of activity. Coach / leader to ensure helmets are correctly fitted. Helmets comply with BC guidelines, are in good condition, to be checked by Equipment Officer annually.	Coach judgement calls to be upheld.
Entrapments	All paddlers	Tree debris removed from main flow of river. Group briefed on avoiding overhanging branches, and 'feet up' defensive swimming.	Visual inspection by coaches, avoidance or removal as required
Foot Injury	All paddlers	Suitable shoes to be worn at all times to protect feet from broken glass / sharp debris on the river / river bank. Beginners course information to be clear on equipment required.	Coaches to reinforce to all paddlers
Slips, Trips & Falls	All paddlers and spectators	Wooden bridge deck to be monitored for a skid risk and maintained as appropriate. Advice to be given by coaches on potential hazards of walking over rocks, especially when wet or icy – including to spectators where relevant	
Water Quality	All paddlers	All groups (and parents) to be made aware of risk of water-borne diseases and encouraged to shower / wash after paddling. Cuts to be covered while paddling in accordance with BC guidance. Any obvious signs of water pollution should be reported to the Environment Agency whose number is displayed on the club notice board and to club Access and Environment Officer.	Coaches to cancel / run session away from pollution as appropriate.
White Water course	All paddlers	Spray decks should be worn in kayaks and slalom canoes - all paddlers in the group to have at least done a full capsized drill with spray deck prior to paddling the white water course. Paddlers should be of one star standard or above to ensure they can hold a straight course to line up for drops. Sessions to be lead by appropriately qualified Coaches / Leaders approved by Committee (see below for rules applying to approved leaders). Also see water levels for appropriate activities at different river levels.	Coaches to check river levels and run sessions in accordance with River Conditions Policy
Specific Hazard - Club Weir	All paddlers	The weir is undercut so there is a potential that in lower water levels a paddler capsizing right in the stopper may become disorientated and swim under the undercut weir. At higher flows the weir forms a green wave that will flush swimmer out	Coaches to make paddlers playing in the weir aware of the risk and remain vigilant and ready to rescue swimmers that do not reappear.
Specific Hazard - Middle	Inexperienced paddlers	At lower levels there is a risk of noses of longer boats pinning on the rock below the drop and becoming stuck across the drop	Coaches to adopt position of maximum usefulness (by rock) to

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(3rd) drop			prevent or quickly release a pin
Specific Hazard - Puzzle Weir	All paddlers	Entrapment – Serious Danger. A partial collapse of the face of the weir has resulted in all the water (at low and medium flows) going into the hole on the weir. In this there are many metal spikes which will trap a boat/swimmer. <i>(Note from above this looks paddlable, but it is not.)</i>	Coaches / Leaders to get groups out above the weir and portage (right bank)
Rapid below Puzzle Weir	All paddlers	Potential entrapment hazard from debris lodged on bridge pillars below the rapid – coaches to inspect and avoid/provide safety as appropriate.	Coach to inspect and respond accordingly
Unintentional overtaken by darkness	All paddlers	Ensure adequate daylight for the proposed activity (particularly round trips) and ensure return to below County Bridge at dusk. Use river lights for slalom course after dusk. River lights to be properly maintained.	See below for intentional after dark paddling
Intentional Paddling after dusk	All paddlers	Paddling after dark should only be done by experienced paddlers. Coaches must know where each paddler is at all times and be aware of the additional risks arising from reduced visibility. Paddling above County Bridge: Coaches should make an assessment whether there is sufficient ambient light to safely run the session. Paddling on the white water course: River lights to be on after dusk. For groups that intend to paddle after dusk. River lights to be properly maintained.	Coach judgement on the suitability of paddlers for sessions in the dark
Intentional Swimming	All paddlers	Coaches ensure the activity is appropriate to the experience of the group, river conditions, prevailing weather and participants clothing. Coaches to ensure adequate boat or bank based safety is in place for the activity. Prior to activity groups to be properly briefed (potential entrapment hazards, safe swimming, water quality issues etc). Spray decks to be remove to reduce snagging risk.	Coach judgement on the suitability of the condition and participants for the activity.
Canal Hazards	All paddlers	Coaches to brief paddlers on the dangers posed by operating locks and ensure all keep away from and not passage through locks. Coaches to be aware of other craft using the canal and ensure paddlers know what to do when other craft are approaching.	

Rules applying to club approved list of coaches and group leaders on Home Waters only

The white water sections (slalom course and between Puzzle weir and foot bridge) on the home waters are classified as Grade 2 (in Green or Amber conditions).

The Club Committee recognises that there are members of the club who are familiar with the white water sections of Home Waters, and have skills and experience to assist on club sessions on Home Waters even though they do not have the coaching/leading qualification required to have a remit at these levels. These will preferably be in the process of gaining coaching or river leader qualifications.

A list of coaches and approved Club Activity Assistants is maintained by the committee (Coaching Officer) who can operate as follows:

Coach / Leader	Green River Conditions	Amber River Conditions	Red / Black River Conditions
Coach or leader with a current remit for moderate white water, i.e. - UKCC or BC Level 3 or Performance coach (WW) - UKCC L2 with Moderate Water End - WW leader / 4 Star (WW) - Coach Award (white water)	Within BC remit / ratios	Within BC remit / ratios	No club sessions on the river
Coach or Leader with current training for moderate white water, i.e. - WW leader / 4 star training within the last 3 years	May coach on white water sections. Ratio of 1:6 paddlers	Flat water sections only within BC remits / ratios	No club sessions on the river
BC or UKCC Level 2 UKCC Level 1	May coach on white water sections provided there are at least two coaches or a coach assisted by an Approved Club Activity Assistant. Ratio of 2 leaders to up to 8 paddlers	Flat water sections only within BC remits / ratios	No club sessions on the river
Approved Club Activity Assistant	May <u>assist</u> a coach on white water sections. (e.g. be the second leader with a coach and 8 paddlers).	Assisting a coach on flat water sections within BC remits / ratios	No club sessions on the river

Circular trips from the club

Within the provision of this risk assessment it is possible for coaches to undertake a circular trip from the club up the canal and back down the river Calder from **below the double weir**. (Egress the canal immediately before bridge 4, follow the footpath across the field and bridge to access the river below the double weir.) Before undertaking a circular trip coaches must be familiar with the crossing point between the canal and river and seek advice from the club's Coaching Officer if required.

Other club trips on the Calder either **above or running the double weir or on the river downstream of the white water course** are outside of Home Waters and must be under the supervision of a suitable qualified BC coach (BC L3, UKCC L3 or UKCC L2 with moderate water endorsement. Or a White Water Leader) with an appropriate trip risk assessment.

Bank-based Coaching

This is particularly pertinent to slalom coaching, but also applies to general white water or freestyle coaching on home waters.

Coaches may undertake bank based coaching of their group on the flat or white water based on the above remits and coaching ratios. Coaches who hold BC Slalom Coach qualifications or have attended the Slalom Discipline Modules may coach from the bank under the remit or their qualification.

When undertaking bank-based coaching the coach must undertake a risk assessment of the activity (based on the ability level of paddlers in the group and the prevailing conditions/water level) and ensure that adequate safety cover is in place for the duration of the activity and brief paddlers accordingly. This safety cover could range from additional competent paddlers acting as safety boats, the coach on bank with a throw line, or competent paddlers within the group providing safety cover.

Halifax Canoe Club Home Waters Map



Canal at Luddendenfoot

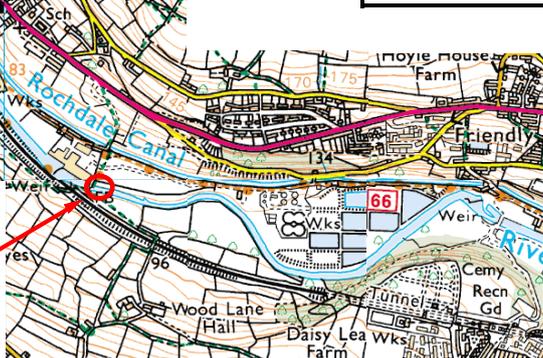
Halifax Canoe Club Home Waters are defined as:

- the stretch of the river Calder from below the Double Weir down to the egress steps at the bottom of the white water course

and

- the canal between Luddendenfoot and Salterhebble locks (canal locks must be portaged)

River access below double weir

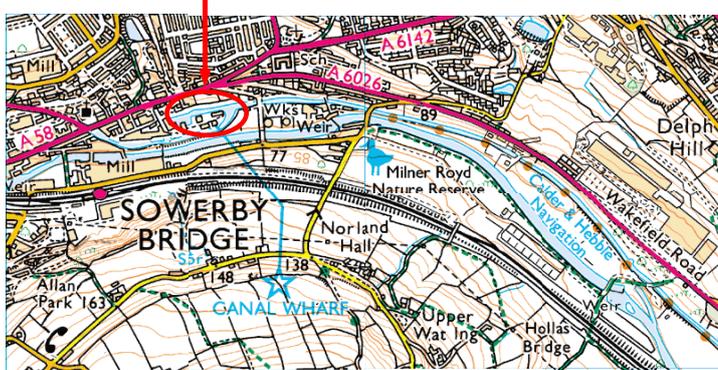


Canal access Market car park



River egress white water course steps

Canal access Sowerby Bridge Marina



Salter Hebble Locks

