

Risk Assessment

Type of Trip: Friends recreational kayak trip **Venue:** River Alwn **Grid Reference:** 000079 **Access** 032466 **Egress** 050436 **Date of visit:** 14/10/17

<http://rainchasers.com/river/alwn/lIanfihangel-glyn-myfyr-a5-road-bridge> River Alwn **(N.B. Access at Bettws Gwerfil Goch; park at church)**

River Alwn <http://rloi.naturalresources.wales/ViewDetails?station=4166> **See video** <https://youtu.be/Uek6iOEL2W0>

	2	3	4	5
What is the hazard?	Who might be harmed?	How may the risk be adequately controlled?	What further action is necessary?	Review comments Review date
Access: Bettws Gwerfil Goch before bridge, park at Church	Club Members	S = 2 L = 2 = 4 Low River Level = 1.02	Correct supervision and group control by instructor, safety brief	
Egress: after bridge at A5 old road bridge at Plas Isaf.	Club Members	S = 2 L = 2 = 4 Low River Level = 1.02	Correct supervision and group control by instructor, safety brief.	
Grade 2 Rapids; continuously until you reach River Cierw confluence, this is the beginning of the Grade 3 section. 1 st Section "Wave train". Next section initially flat before the more demanding section, bear left then immediately right for "Wave train" and "Rock" drops. Note: main danger are "Overhanging" branches and two stock wire fences, particularly in the Spring, Summer & Autumn months before River Cierw confluence. Note; weir near the end of trip	Club Members	S = 4 L = 4 = 16 High	Check Environment Agency or Rain chasers for Current River levels for appropriate levels Correct supervision and group control by instructor, safety brief	
Stock Fences across the river; After access 800m, 1 st bend 031462 , parallel with Church car park. 2 nd 600m after bridge, river bends to right.	Club Members	S = 5 L = 4 = 20 High	See map on rainchasers & video. Correct supervision and group control by instructor, safety brief	

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Drowning - "Overhanging" branches	Club Members	S = 4 L = 4 = 16 High	Check Environment Agency for Current River levels at Llanerfyl. Correct supervision and group control by instructor, safety brief. Apply "Buddy" checks on helmets & buoyancy aids, boats	
Over hanging tree or strainers	Club Members	S = 4 L = 4 = 16 High Identify hazard areas to paddlers.	Correct supervision and group control by instructor, safety brief. Advised to avoid & informed how to escape entrapment.	
Medicinal risks	Club Members	S = 2 L = 2 = 4 Low Friends not taking necessary medication. Unauthorised consumption of medication	Agreed action between participants & instructors of routine consumption of necessary medication. Instructors may hold any necessary medication on request/agreement of participant involved.	
Weather & Environmental Conditions	Club Members	S = 5 L = 5 = 25 High Floods	Check weather forecast & river levels. Dynamic risk assessment. Re-locate or cancel if inappropriate to group ability	
Weir; 0404438	Club Members	S = 5 L = 5 = 25 High	Portage; egress into large field below junction to junction to Bala & "Wind sock". Walk towards weir and access from the large stones below weir.	Access from stones as the river is fast flowing & can get caught in "Strainers".

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Weather related injury Hypothermia Hyperthermia.	Club Members	S = 3 L = 3 = 9 Med Advised on appropriate clothing to wear. Adjustment to clothing as required, e.g. use of wet to dry suit depending on weather forecast, temperature & time of year.	Check weather forecast. Dynamic risk assessment. Correct supervision and group control by instructor, safety brief; recommended kit to wear. Sun block, extra water, hot drink, change of clothing Group shelter	
Slips, trips & falls	Club Members	S = 3 L = 3 = 9 Med Identify hazard areas to paddlers.	Correct supervision and group control by instructor, safety brief. Dynamic risk assessment.	
Sprains, strains, soft tissue injuries	Club Members	S = 3 L = 3 = 8 Low Trained to lift correctly. Ask for help. Trained to paddle correctly.	Dynamic risk assessment. Correct supervision and group control by instructor, safety brief. On-going training in manual handling	
Pollution & water quality	Club Members	S = 3 L = 3 = 9 mod Advised to bath/shower after paddle. Made aware of flotsam	Risks higher in "Spate" conditions. Avoid intentional capsize in poor conditions	

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Other river uses	Club Members	S = 3 L = 3 = 9 Med Paddlers instructed to be aware of other uses & how to take appropriate action to avoid them.	Dynamic risk assessment. Correct supervision and group control by instructor, safety brief.	
Illness & fatigue	Club Members	S = 3 L = 3 = 9 Med Paddlers to inform instructors	Correct supervision and group control by instructor, safety brief. Dynamic risk assessment. First aid kit, food and water, evacuation procedures and assistance.	
Road Traffic accident Breakdown	Club Members	S = 5 L = 4 = 20 High Paddlers to follow instructions from leaders	Dynamic risk assessment. Correct supervision and group control by instructor, safety brief. First aid kit, food and water, evacuation procedures and assistance.	
Equipment: unserviceable	Club Members	S = 2 L = 3 = 6 Low Loose seat, footrest, ratchets, missing bung,	Periodic safety checks of equipment, qualified instructors.	

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Fisherman; line & hook causing facial injuries		S = 2 L = 2 = 4 Low Identify & inform participants & instructors.	Dynamic risk assessment. Correct supervision and group control by instructor, safety brief.	
Bridge Stanchions'	Club Members	S = 4 L = 3 = 12 Med Avoid paddling in front of bridge Stanchions, as this may lead to a capsize.	Correct supervision and group control by instructor, safety brief. Dynamic risk assessment.	

Handout (1) CALCULATION OF RISK SEVERITY

In assessing a RISK you need to take into account two factors:

- (1) How serious could an injury be?
- (2) How likely is it to occur?

The following would be a rough guideline:

High Risk: A very serious injury that had a high probability of occurring.

Med. Risk:

- Either (a) A serious injury unlikely to occur
(b) A lesser injury likely to occur

Low Risk:

Would be a slight injury that was unlikely to occur.

- If you take (1) above as a scale of 1 to 5 (5 = high) Seriousness
(2) above as a scale of 1 to 5 (5 = high) Likelihood

Then, multiply them together, this would give a scale as follows:

Translating into: LOW (1-8) MED. (9-17) HIGH RISKS (18-25)

SERIOUSNESS OF INJURY

- 5 = Very high potential for multiple death and/or wide spread destruction.
- 4 = High causing death or serious injury to an individual, i.e. reportable accident under the RIDDOR regulations.
- 3 = Moderate causing injury or disease capable of keeping an individual off work for three days or more, may require reporting under RIDDOR regulations.
- 2 = Slight causing minor injuries, i.e. person able to continue work after first aid.
- 1 = No risk of injury or disease.

LIKELIHOOD OF THE EVENT OCCURRING

- 5 = Very likely, almost certain.
- 4 = Likely to occur, i.e. easily precipitated with slight carelessness for external event, e.g. vibration.
- 3 = Quite possible, the accident is only likely to occur with help, i.e. if somebody slips, failure to replace a light, etc.
- 2 = Possibly - probably is low or minimal.
- 1 = Not likely at all, there is really no risk and accidents will only occur under freak conditions.

