


RISK ASSESSMENT

LOCATION/ACTIVITY/ISSUE BEING ASSESSED:	Open Water Swimming at Dinton Activity Centre		
SERVICE/TEAM:	Countryside Service		
NAME OF ASSESSOR(s):	Mike Bennett		
DATE OF ASSESSMENT:	08/04/2026		
DATE FOR REVIEW:	Jan 2027		
APPROVED BY:	Signature:	Date: 08/04/2026	
			
	Name: Gemma Wilford		

SUMMARY (* delete as appropriate)	
Risk level without additional controls:	HIGH / MEDIUM / LOW *
Additional control measures required:	YES / NO *
Risk level with additional controls:	HIGH / MEDIUM / LOW *

* = Refer to Centre Operating Procedures

What are the significant hazards?	What could go wrong? Who could be harmed and how?	What is being done to control the risks?	Amendment notes
Water Quality/Conditions	<p>Sickness to swimmers from high/low microbiology levels.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> pH, E.Coli, Enterococcus blue-green algae. Skin and eye irritations Stomach sickness Leptospirosis (Weil's Disease) Entanglement in weed 	<p>Water quality testing for pH, E.coli and Enterococcus will take place at least monthly during April – October. Results are measured against British Triathlon standards.</p> <p>Expected results: Ph between 6 and 9 E.coli not more than 200 per 100ml Enterococcus <330 per 100ml</p> <p>Blue-Green levels will be monitored, should an outbreak occur swimming will be cancelled, or the area moved.</p>	

		<p>If a large proportion of the lake is covered with blue green the lake will be closed for swimming.</p> <p>Weed growth is limited as per the countryside weed management plan.</p>	
<p>Weather Conditions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wind • Temperature 	<p>Swimmers blown off course or rescue craft unable to perform duties due to strong winds.</p> <p>Hypothermia/Hyperthermia due to water temperature.</p>	<p>During periods of wind speeds above 12mph (above force 3) swimming will be cancelled.</p> <p>Wetsuits when the water temperature is: 11° - 14° are mandatory 15°-22° are highly recommended 22°+ are discouraged</p> <p>When the water temperate is below 11° the safety ratio is doubled for all safety craft. Wetsuits will be mandatory.</p> <p>Reheat facilities are available including but not exclusively, hot showers, heated rooms, thermal blankets, hot drinks.</p>	
<p>Wildlife</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Swans & Geese 	<p>Swimmer or staff member attacked by swans, geese or birds.</p>	<p>Wildlife is monitored by swim safety staff and pushed away by SUPs or powerboats to avoid contact with swimmers.</p>	
<p>Weak Swimmers</p> <p>Lost Swimmers</p>	<p>Swimmer being out on water before or after safety cover has been provided</p> <p>Swimmer losing course and swimming away from managed area</p> <p>Drowning</p>	<p>Sign in and out sheets located at water's edge with buggy.</p> <p>Swimmers wrist bands cut off and kept with buggy after exiting water.</p> <p>High visibility / brightly coloured swimming hats and tow floats are mandatory.</p> <p>Large brightly coloured marker buoys will outline the swimming course.</p>	

		<p>A Giant SUP will be launched and positioned half-way round the course as a rest stop.</p> <p>Swim safety cover and first aid provided.</p> <p>Safety craft/kayakers or platforms should be stationed around the course & safety boat on the water.</p> <p>Safety ratio set at 20 swimmers to 1 safety craft.</p> <p>Children aged below 16 must be accompanied 1:1 by an adult.</p> <p>Minimum age: 14</p> <p>All swimmers should have a good level of health and fitness.</p> <p>Swim safety staff must always be aware of the number of participants in the water. This is achieved by tally clicker counter at the waters entrance and by safety staff keeping count.</p>	
Staff	Competency of staff manning rescue craft	<p>All staff performing safety and rescue duties must be competent to do so. Competency can demonstrated by holding a relevant qualification e.g BC swim safety & rescue, BC FSRT, open water lifeguard or equivalent. Powerboat drivers must hold a minimum of RYA Powerboat Level 2.</p> <p>Ongoing competency can be proved by demonstrating rescues each year at the annual inaction weekend.</p>	
Other Activities		Open water swimming takes place when there are few other activities taking place on the water.	

		It must not take place during periods of sailing or powerboat tuition.	
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REVIEWS AND REVISIONS					
Review date	Name of Assessor	Is assessment still valid?	If not, list adjustments with details of who will action and by when	Approved by Manager	Date of next review
03.04.24	M.Bennett	Yes	Assessment Generated	Richard Ashwell	Jan '25
08.04.25	R Ashwell	Yes	Review	Richard Ashwell	April 25