


ACTIVITY:	Powerboating
SERVICE/TEAM:	Countryside Service – Dinton Activity Centre
NAME OF ASSESSOR(s):	Richard Ashwell
DATE OF ASSESSMENT:	27 November 2025
DATE FOR REVIEW:	February 2027
APPROVED BY:	Signature: _____ Date: 27/02/2026  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

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
Manual handling.	Staff and participants alike could lose footing and cause the equipment to fall onto them. Also, possible sprain or strain injuries from bad manual handling technique. Staff Participants	Staff to ensure participants are trained on correct procedures and ratios Buggy to be used for moving powerboats between garages and water. Staff and participants to wear closed-toe footwear with good grip whilst manoeuvring boats.	
Physical/ Verbal Assault from general public/ anglers	General insults or abuse could be shouted during the activity which may offend and be inappropriate in front of students. Staff Participants	Students while out of building will be supervised and any negative impact from public/ anglers will be reported to duty senior instructor. Instructor will avoid powerboat training in front of angler, where possible. No planing in or along the launching beach, pontoon and duck feeding areas of the lake.	

		Marker buoys should not be dragged to be repositioned, but collected and re-set.	
Oil/ fuel spills	Spills or splashes could go in staff member's eyes/mouth. Build-up of fumes in an unventilated area could cause staff to feel ill. Fuel spills could lead to a slippery surface or harm to the environment. Fire Fume inhalation Staff Participants	Fuel to be stored in the ventilated and locked metal fuel store. Valves on stored fuel cans should be open. Refuelling should be done in boat compound, ideally at the start or end of a day to minimise contact with public or participants in the compound. Correct PPE is supplied and should be worn and used. Fuel decanting should take place in the fuel bund to prevent contamination of the area if spillages occur. Should any Assistant Instructors be allowed to pour fuel they must always be supervised by a member of staff and wear PPE. COSHH statement and procedures adhered to and updated. Fire extinguishers in every powerboat, garage, workshop & the buggy. Fuel runs to only be done in the open back pick – up truck.	
Other water users	Collisions with other boats can cause injury or kit breakage to both craft. The wake of the powerboats at higher speeds could cause capsizes of small crafts i.e., canoes/kayaks. Staff Participants Other Water Users	Students and instructors should be aware of RYA guidelines on rules of the road. Low speed control areas should be maintained. Staff to ensure participants are briefed on expected behaviour around other water users. Minimum distance from in-use fishing pegs to be observed.	
Wildlife	Geese and swan may become irate at the presents of boat/kids within their territory especially after the birth of goslings/cygnets. Risk to all water users.	Respect the wildlife to be covered in the briefing. Ensure that duck feeding area is avoided by any powerboats, unless absolutely essential; in these cases, slow speeds should be observed.	

<p>Equipment failure</p>	<p>Equipment failure could lead to a powerboat becoming out of control and provides a significant risk to all water users.</p> <p>Engine failure Fire Sinking</p> <p>Staff Participants</p>	<p>Senior Instructor to delegate/conduct equipment checks to ensure all equipment present and engines properly attached.</p> <p>Powerboats serviced yearly by competent person.</p> <p>Follow guidance from RYA about pre-launch and pre-start checks. These checks must be completed every time the boat is used.</p> <p>List of safety equipment adhered to. Anything used must be replaced. Anything missing – the boat should not be used until itinerary is complete.</p> <p>Prestart checks will be taught in course and knowledge checked in powerboat authorisation sign off.</p> <p>Regular powerboat integrity and equipment checks will be made by instructors.</p> <p>Instructors will report any breakages on papertrail and to the duty senior instructor. Quarantine tags used to remove items from service and indicate status to others.</p>	
<p>Falling Overboard</p>	<p>The driver and all passengers are at risk of falling overboard. This has a risk to injury being hit by part of the boat and also a risk of drowning, cold shock, hypothermia and other risks associated with falling into water.</p> <p>Staff Participants</p>	<p>Buoyancy aids / lifejackets to be worn.</p> <p>Instructor and Helm both have a duty to ensure that everyone is seated and holding on to something secure.</p> <p>Ensure that that the driver is not distracted, and visibility of the passage is not obstructed by equipment or passengers.</p> <p>Ensure that driver's visibility is not limited by weather conditions – consider sunglasses for sunshine and rain. Slow down if visibility is reduced.</p> <p>Ensure that boat passenger and loading quantities are observed as per CE plate.</p> <p>Should someone fall overboard, follow the MOB procedure taught in level 2 and radio the office or duty senior instructor.</p>	

<p>Sound and vibration</p>	<p>Prolonged use of machinery can lead to reduced auditory capability while vibrations can lead to muscle issues.</p>	<p>15hp Honda Sound levels Idle - 79dB (measured) Session Speed - 82dB (measured) Wide open throttle - 88dB (estimated)</p> <p>HSE noise exposure ready-reckoner (daily) points Per session 88db for 2mins 0 points 82db for 1.5h (non-continuous) 10 points 79db for 30 mins 0 points Total per session 10 points Total per day 20 points Daily noise exposure $L_{ep,d}$ (dB(A)) 78 No Action necessary.</p> <p>15hp Honda Vibration Rubber throttle handle used to reduce vibrations into the person. Pendulum motion design to reduce vibrations into the tiller.</p>	
<p>Kill Cords</p>	<p>Not using a kill cord provides a risk of the boat remaining in gear and moving with no-one at the controls showing a risk to all water users.</p>	<p>Kill cords must be worn at all times, whilst the boat is in operation.</p> <p>The cord should be wrapped around and clipped back to itself not clipped directly to clothing. It should not interfere with the steering or gear usage.</p> <p>The kills cords and switches should be tested at the start of each day when the powerboat is launched.</p> <p>The only exception is if the engine is being warmed up and the boat is secured to the pontoon, out of gear.</p> <p>Instructors must check that they have an appropriate kill cord for the boat being used and a spare is on board.</p> <p>Any damage to kill cords should be reported immediately to duty SI.</p> <p>Only use the manufacturers kill cords.</p> <p>Double kill cord while under 12's are driving (so the instructor has one attached too).</p>	

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
Feb 2020	Harry Lovibond	Yes	Purchase fuel bund – before Easter. Note added in about Assistant Instructors due to COPs change in 2019 season. Additional notes added about fuel procedures and fire risks.	Tanya Lee	Feb 2021
Jan 2021	Jack Walling	Yes		Jack Walling	Jan 2022
March 2021	Sophie Wooldridge	Yes	Updated references to COP's	Jack Walling	Jan 2022
October 2022	Richard Ashwell	yes	Quarantine reference updated. Equipment pre-use checks updated as per RYA inspection report 2022 suggestions. Kill cord info updated to be more in depth and match current RYA recommendations.	Richard Ashwell	Feb 2023
Feb 2023	Isabel R.S.	Yes	Updated references to COP's, added yearly professional service for preventative maintenance, already being done but not in RA	Richard Ashwell	March 2024
Dec 2023	Mike Bennett	Yes	Updated references to COP's	Richard Ashwell	March 2025
October 2024	Mike Bennett	Yes	Updated service details to “competent person” as we now service in house. Updated Reference to buoyancy aids and non-swimmers and those with no water confidence should wear a lifejacket. Added reference to CE plate loading.	Richard Ashwell	March 2026
November 2025	Richard Ashwell	Yes	No change	Richard Ashwell	Feb 2026