


## ISK ASSESSMENT

<b>LOCATION/ACTIVITY/ISSUE BEING ASSESSED:</b>	Raft Building at Dinton Activity Centre	
<b>SERVICE/TEAM:</b>	Countryside Service	
<b>NAME OF ASSESSOR(s):</b>	Mike Bennett	
<b>DATE OF ASSESSMENT:</b>	01 December 2025	
<b>DATE FOR REVIEW:</b>	December 2026	
<b>APPROVED BY:</b>	Signature: 	Date: 03/03/2026
	Name: Gemma Wilford	

SUMMARY (* delete as appropriate)	
Risk level <b>without</b> additional controls:	<del>HIGH</del> / MEDIUM / <del>LOW</del>
Additional control measures required:	YES / <del>NO</del>
Risk level <b>with</b> 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?
<p><b>Capsize, inversion and entrapment.</b></p>	<p>If the raft is unbalanced there is a risk of the whole raft flipping and a possibility of participants getting caught in any ropes used to tie the raft together.</p> <p>Participants Staff</p>	<p>Buoyancy Aids worn when on the water.</p> <p>Participants should not stand up or jump off raft in shallow water.</p> <p>Participants to be briefed on keeping limbs away from entrapment hazards and to keep ropes 'clean'.</p> <p>Rafts must not be allowed to become unbalanced during games.</p> <p>Session leads must ensure that the raft is unlikely to collapse in use. In the event of collapse, ensure participants are safe and back to shore before retrieving equipment.</p> <p>There should be no more than eight adults per raft and no more than two rafts per session lead.</p>

		<p>Standard raft designs must be used for sessions with Under 18's. Adult groups may use their own raft design but these must be dynamically risk assessed by the session lead before going afloat.</p> <p>Participants advised on weight distribution on the raft and sit accordingly (e.g., taller people sitting with shorter people on barrels or not all sitting on one side of the raft)</p> <p>There must be at least one safety craft and session lead on the water when the rafts are afloat.</p>
<b>Other water users</b>	<p>Collision with other water users could cause injury or equipment damage to either craft. There is also a risk of entanglement in lines from anglers.</p> <p>Participants Staff</p>	<p>Staff to ensure participants are briefed on expected behaviour around other water users. Minimum distance from in-use fishing pegs to be observed.</p>
<b>Wildlife</b>	<p>Geese and swans may become irate at the presence of boats/participants within their territory especially after the hatching of goslings/cygnets. Risk to all water users.</p> <p>The raft build zone on the beach is a haven for ducklings and goslings in spring.</p> <p>Participants Staff</p>	<p>Staff to ensure participants are briefed on expected behaviour around wildlife, particularly during nesting season.</p> <p>'Dogs on leads' signage is displayed on the activity centre water front.</p>
<b>Manual handling from beach to water</b>	<p>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.</p> <p>Participants Staff</p>	<p>Staff to ensure participants are trained on correct procedures and ratios.</p> <p>Participants should not lift raft from the front.</p> <p>Raft carrying to be closely supervised by staff.</p> <p>Rafts should not be flipped over during construction.</p>
<b>Head Injury</b>		<p>Helmets should be worn at all times, including during the build phase.</p>

	<p>Participants at risk of head injury from moving logs when building. Once on the water participants are at risk of being hit by a paddle or a protruding pole if they slip off the raft.</p> <p>Participants Staff</p>	
<b>Injury caused by Ropes</b>	<p>Injury to the face or eyes caused by rope flicking when tying knots</p> <p>Rope burns when tying knots or using ropes as painters for the raft if person holding not strong enough to grip when containing raft in the water</p> <p>Participants Staff</p>	<p>Participants briefed on safe way to tie knots and to be mindful when 'square lashing'</p> <p>Instructors to brief participants of how to hold ropes safely and to ask for help if feel unable to hold weight of raft in water alone (when using painters to pull the raft) towards beach area</p>
<b>Strong winds</b>	<p>Rafts may become stuck on a lee shore or if parts of the raft come lose they could be blown away.</p> <p>Participants Staff</p>	<p>Senior staff to consider participant competency and prevailing weather conditions before permitting sessions to go ahead in windy conditions.</p> <p>Staff to carefully consider activity areas and use painters in offshore winds.</p> <p>In offshore wind and with weak paddlers, the rafts must be attached by their long painters to the shore.</p>
<b>Rescues</b>	<p>Rescues can harm either the staff or participants by entrapment between two craft. There is also a risk of injury to staff from the manual handing of participants out of the water.</p> <p>Participants Staff</p>	<p>Staff to use appropriate safety craft for the qualifications they hold. (Powerboat or Canoe).</p> <p>Powerboats should be used carefully in close proximity to rafts.</p> <p>There should be at least one safety boat on the water during the session.</p> <p>Throwline available from the beach and in safety craft.</p> <p>Leisure Assistants can lead a session under the direct supervision of a Water sports instructor. Both must be trained and authorised to lead rafting sessions.</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
3/02/2020	Nicola Dennis	Yes	<p>'No more than two rafts per session lead'.</p> <p>Adult groups may use their own raft design but these must be dynamically risk assessed by the session lead before going afloat.</p> <p>Dogs on lead signage is displayed on the activity centre water front.</p> <p>The above three additions are not new, they simply weren't captured across from the operation procedures to the risk assessment in previous years.</p> <p>'Leisure Assistants can lead a session under the direct supervision of a Watersports instructor'. Both must be trained and authorised to lead rafting sessions. – this is an addition for 2020</p> <p>Word 'instructor' changed to 'session lead', due to the introduction of Leisure Assistants being raft authorised.</p>	Tanya Lee	Feb 2021
March 2021	Sophie Wooldridge	Yes	Updated references to COP's	Jack Walling	Feb 2022
Feb 2022	Nicola Dennis	Yes	Updated references to COPS		
Feb 2023	Isabel R.S	Yes	Updated references to COP's	Richard Ashwell	March 2024
Dec 2023	Mike Bennett	Yes	Updated references to COP's	Richard Ashwell	March 2025
Dec 2024	Mike Bennett	Yes	Removed References to COP's	Mike Bennett	Dec 2025