

# Braeside Education Centre - Activity Risk Assessment



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Centre

Assessment of:		Paddle Sports		Venue:	Braeside education centre – Devizes Wharf		
Assessor:		Josh Simons / Dan Colby		Date:	January 2026	Review Date:	January 2027
ID	Hazards Identified  le: what can cause harm?	Persons at Risk  le: who could be harmed by the hazard?	Current Risk Factor (High, medium or low)  le: determine the level of risk	Actions to be Taken to Minimize each Risk  le: what action can you take to lower the level of risk			New Risk Factor (High, medium or low)  le: risk factor after action taken to minimize the risk
<b>Please also see:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Walking (Devizes town &amp; surrounding areas) RA 2024</li> </ul>							
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Risk of on the water accident and/or injury including entrapment and drowning due to capsize</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Braeside Staff</li> <li>Participants including Staff</li> </ul>	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Buoyancy aids to be worn by all participants.</li> <li>Helmets to be worn by under 18's.</li> <li>Qualified instructor or teacher (min. BC UKCC Level 1/ CB PSI).</li> <li>Qualified assistant (min Paddlesport Safety and Rescue)</li> <li>Instructors to ensure buoyancy aids are appropriate size, worn correctly and checked for condition.</li> <li>Instructors to check boats and personal equipment including footwear.</li> <li>Instructors to check if paddlers have long laces on trainers, excess webbing on buoyancy aids, unfastened clothing, long hair tied back, to avoid snagging on boats.</li> <li>Instructors and assistants trained to rescue a capsized paddler trapped in their boat.</li> <li>Boats are to be fitted with sufficient buoyancy to float when capsized.</li> <li>Instructors &amp; assistants to be trained in emptying boats and rescue techniques.</li> <li>Instructors to check appropriate craft used for paddler ability and water conditions.</li> <li>Instructors to carry safety equipment reflecting the conditions and group ability.</li> <li>Instructors and activity leaders may prevent anyone from paddling that they believe is unfit to do so or lacking sufficient experience or skill to manage the conditions.</li> </ul>			low
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Locks</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Braeside Staff</li> <li>Participants including Staff</li> </ul>	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Thorough briefing and instructions given.</li> <li>Keep paddlers away from lock gates when in use</li> <li>Qualified instructors to actively reassess for other canal users and use of the locks.</li> </ul>			Low

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3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Untreated Water – biohazard (weils disease)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Braeside Staff</li> <li>Participants including Staff</li> </ul>	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Thorough briefing and instructions given.</li> <li>Ensure open wounds are covered and washed when return to base.</li> <li>Paddlers to wash hands after every session.</li> <li>All paddlers to be made aware that river/canal environments carry a risk of waterborne disease or infection (e.g. Weil's Disease or EColi).</li> <li>All teachers/responsible adults to be directed to read information notice on Leptospirosis (Weil's disease).</li> <li>Change of clothes, towel etc.</li> <li>Instructions on not drinking the water.</li> </ul>	Low
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Other canal users / boats</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Braeside Staff</li> <li>Participants including Staff</li> <li>Public</li> </ul>	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Thorough briefing and instructions given.</li> <li>Qualified instructors to actively reassess for other canal users.</li> <li>Paddlers to follow canal traffic rules – River right when passing other boats.</li> <li>Instructors to manage group to the side to allow other boats to pass.</li> </ul>	Low
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Overhanging branches</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Braeside Staff</li> <li>Participants including Staff</li> </ul>	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Paddlers to be made aware of any low overhanging branches and possibly keep away.</li> <li>Instructors could choose to remove any dangerous hanging branches if safe to do so.</li> </ul>	Medium
6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sharp debris</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Braeside Staff</li> <li>Participants including Staff</li> </ul>	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Footwear to be always worn.</li> <li>Minimise any time in the water out of craft.</li> <li>Instructor &amp; assistants to manage entry and exit locations on canal. Making sure areas are clear.</li> </ul>	Low
7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dog/Swan/Duck faeces</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Braeside Staff</li> <li>Participants including Staff</li> </ul>	low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Instructors to assess land areas before groups arrive.</li> <li>Paddlers advised to watch out where putting their kit on land.</li> </ul>	Low
8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Swans</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Braeside Staff</li> <li>Participants including Staff</li> <li>Wildlife</li> </ul>	low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Advise paddlers to be considerate towards wildlife and not antagonise swans.</li> <li>Avoid swans with cygnets on the canal as they tend to protect their young.</li> <li>If paddlers need to pass close to swans, avoid getting between them and their young.</li> </ul>	Low
9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Slipway – slippy and walls/Solid obstacles</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Braeside Staff</li> <li>Participants including Staff</li> </ul>	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Thorough briefing and instructions given.</li> <li>One instructor to be always on the water before allowing paddlers onto water.</li> <li>One instructor or assistants to remain on land assisting all paddlers into boats and entering the water.</li> </ul>	Low

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10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Weather -Heat/Cold</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Braeside Staff</li> <li>Participants including Staff</li> </ul>	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Clothing appropriate to conditions – checked and use of Braeside clothing if needed.</li> <li>Hot drink in cold weather.</li> <li>Drinking water in hot weather.</li> <li>Change of clothes, towel etc.</li> <li>Braeside staff to assess weather before start of session.</li> </ul>	Low
11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dehydration</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Braeside Staff</li> <li>Participants including Staff</li> </ul>	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hot/Warm drink in cold weather.</li> <li>Drinking water in hot weather (Bottle to be taken on water).</li> </ul>	Low
12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Slips and trips entering and exiting boats</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Braeside Staff</li> <li>Participants including Staff</li> </ul>	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Thorough briefing and instructions given.</li> <li>One instructor or assistants to remain on land assisting all paddlers into boats and entering the water.</li> </ul>	Low
13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Aggressive local residence / public</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Braeside Staff</li> <li>Participants including Staff</li> </ul>	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Thorough briefing and instructions given.</li> <li>Keep noise to an acceptable level.</li> <li>Try to moor away from gardens / private land.</li> <li>Staff to always avoid confrontation.</li> <li>Any disagreements or aggressions with public or other users to be reported to management as soon as safely possible.</li> </ul>	Low
14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Extreme conditions – cold/hot.</li> <li>Thunderstorms</li> <li>Time of year; wind and wind chill</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Braeside Staff</li> <li>Participants including Staff</li> </ul>	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Canoeing Advised from March to November, however, ALWAYS consider the weather conditions, the ability of the group and the aims of the session BEFORE undertaking the activity. Adapt and change activity if needed.</li> <li>Paddling sessions to be stopped and exit the water in the event of thunderstorms.</li> <li>Instructors to make decisions of which part of water to instruct from out of the wind.</li> <li>Instructors to use discretion and catamaran canoes if wind is high.</li> </ul>	Medium
15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Car park and moving vehicles</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Braeside Staff</li> <li>Participants including Staff</li> <li>Public</li> </ul>	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Guidance given about staying out of car park area unless supervised.</li> <li>Discreet changing in car park area.</li> </ul>	Low