

Activity Area:	River Crossing - Riverside
Minimum Staffing Level	1 per group
Staff/Pupil Ratio	1:16
Staff Qualifications	In-house trained
Maximum Number of Participants	16
Role of Accompanying Adult:	Bank supervisor

Risk Matrix	Likelihood			
	Very Likely	Likely	Unlikely	Highly Unlikely
Fatality	High -16-	High -15-	High -14-	Medium -13-
Major Injuries	High -12-	High -11-	Medium -10-	Medium -9-
Minor Injuries	High -8-	Medium -7-	Medium -6-	Low -5-
Negligible Injuries	Medium -4-	Medium -3-	Low -2-	Low -1-

Hazard	Persons at Risk	Prior Risk	Existing Controls	New Risk Factor
Water	Instructors Participants	High 16	Instructor to advise not to ingest water or use water activities if suffering from open wounds. Safety brief given at the start of the session. Weak and non-swimmers identified prior to session commencing.	Medium 13
Location of activity	Instructors Participants Observers	Medium 4	First Aid kit available. VHF radio and mobile phone used to maintain contact with duty manager. Off-site emergency procedure in place.	Low 1
Slips, Trips and Falls	Instructors Participants Observers	High 8	Bangs and Scrapes could be minimised by disciplined instruction being always maintained. First Aid kit available always.	Medium 6
Faulty equipment	Instructors Participants	High 8	Equipment is checked prior to the start of every session. Equipment fault report system in place. Faulty equipment is taken out of service.	Medium 6
Falling object	Instructors Participants Observers	High 12	Whilst moving pioneering poles or similar objects extra vigilance is required by the instructor. Leaders to help with moving he poles.	Medium 9
Fall from poles/rope/collision	Instructors Participants	High 12	Safety brief given on how to approach task relative to group age. Instructor on bank side ready for rescue on the event of person falling in the water. Instructor to advise to go any higher then the first pole.	Medium 9
Injury to feet	Instructors Participants	High 8	Suitable footwear check takes place prior to accessing river. All participants instructed to wear trainers or suitable footwear at all times.	Medium 6
Manual Handling	Instructors Participants	High 12	Participants should be advised of manual handling risks. Instructor to observe for unsafe methods.	Medium 9
Weather	All	Medium 4	Instructor to monitor weather & suspend or cancel session when conditions cause safety to be affected. Instructor to check that all participants have suitable clothing prior to commencing the activity. Instructors must always wear appropriate clothing to run the activity safely. Appropriate clothing, time out of sun, fluid breaks. Water resistant sun cream should be used for sunny days. This should be reapplied after the session ends	Low 1
High winds	Instructors Participants Observers	High 16	Instructor to monitor weather & suspend or cancel session when wind conditions cause safety to be affected. Tree survey and wind policies in place (see SOP N:Drive).	Medium 13

River Crossing
06/03/2026 Date of next review 06/03/2027 RA Creator CW

Extremities entrapment	Participants Instructors	High 12	Instructor to brief participants on the specific risks of each section of the activity before allowing participant on the crossing. Instructor to be vigilant during the session and be in the position of maximum usefulness.	Medium 10
Sledge hammer	Participants Instructors	High 8	Inspect for mushroomed heads, cracked/loose handles, or damage. Do not use damaged tools. Ensure a clear, keep others at a safe distance. Keep the striking face parallel to the target. Use both hands, maintain a firm grip, and avoid over-exertion. Proper technique, such as a diagonal swing, can improve control.	Low 5
Sharps	Instructors Participants Observers	High 12	Area to be checked before session for any sharps that may be in the area. Safety equipment on hand for staff to remove any sharps in the area.	Medium 9
Trailer	Instructors Participants Observers	High 8	Participants to be supervised while taking equipment off and on the trailer. Trailer to be a safe distance away from river crossing after equipment has been taken off. Regular checks of trailer for sharp edges etc.	Low 5
Vehicles	Instructors Participants Observers	High 16	Speed limit imposed on vehicles driving on site. Driver has been through site induction.	Medium 13
Flooding	Instructors Participants Observers	High 12	Activity not to run if the river is in full flood. Duty manger to monitor the river flow and speed.	Medium 9

Bathing Water Directive (2006/7/EC) Inland Bathing Waters	
Excellent	EC: ≤500 cfu/100ml ; IE: ≤200 cfu/100ml (95th percentile)
Good	EC: ≤1000 cfu/100ml ; IE: ≤400 cfu/100ml (95th percentile)
Sufficient	EC: ≤900 cfu/100ml ; IE: ≤330 cfu/100ml (90th percentile)