

Broads Tour 4-7 June 2026— Risk Assessment

Methodology – Hazards have been considered based on the nature of the event and expected conditions. Risks have been assessed using the classification table:

	SEVERITY		
PROBABILITY	Low	Medium	High
Unlikely	1	2	3
Fairly Likely	4	5	6
Very Likely	7	8	9

Risks scoring 1 or 2 are deemed acceptable (highlighted in green). Those risks with scores of 3 or 4 (yellow) are acceptable with mitigation. Any risks with scores of 6 or 9 (red) are unacceptable and measures to reduce that risk to an acceptable level (yellow or green) are needed.

Hazard	Risk	Initial Assessment	Control Measures/Mitigation	Final Assessment
Travel	Road accident	N/A	Participants own responsibility before and after event and to and from start, overnight stop and finish	N/A
	Transfer of invasive species (e.g., pennywort) between water bodies	1	Boats and blades to be cleaned and dried prior to launching in new water body (see https://www.britishrowing.org/sustainability)	1

Hazard	Risk	Initial Assessment	Control Measures/Mitigation	Final Assessment
Hospitality	Catering at lunch stops inadequate	1	Professional caterers used are used to catering for groups	1
	Injury/illness of participant	1	First aid kit on all sites	1
Boat Handling	Muscular strains/pains	2	Participants are experienced in boat handling.	2
	Slipping on launch and recovery slips or pontoons	5	Participants are experienced in boat handling.	2
	Difficulty lifting boats out at lunch stops	2	Lift height relatively low but maybe higher than rigger level. Crews will be asked to help each other and there may be the need for additional help for first and last boat.	2
	Cuts/grazes on sharp objects	2	First aid kit on site.	2
Boating/navigational accident	Collision between participating crafts	1	Crews and coxswains are experienced therefore risk is low. All crews must have a coxswain to steer and navigate the course.	1
Boating/navigational accident (continued)			Speed at any impact is likely to be low therefore low risk of damage. Boat design is robust and not easily damaged. Capsize or sinking considered unlikely given design of boats being used.	

Hazard	Risk	Initial Assessment	Control Measures/Mitigation	Final Assessment
	Collision with other craft (including event launches, pleasure craft and commercial craft)	3	<p>Crews and coxswains are experienced therefore risk is low. All crews must have a coxswain to steer and navigate the course.</p> <p>Coxswains will be given guidance on passing yachts under sail.</p> <p>Broad Authority Rangers aware of event and will be contacted as necessary.</p> <p>Outside main holiday season when leisure traffic is at a maximum.</p>	2
	<p>Collision with narrow bridges</p> <p>(Beccles Old Bridge, Yare BC - Access to the cut-off channel for Yare Boat club is through a central navigable arch.)</p>	3	<p>The bridges are not being approached at extreme tidal flow. Crews to give way to oncoming traffic moving with the flow.</p> <p>Crews are advised to bring oars in if necessary but maintain stability. All boats carry a paddle so the coxswain can assist if crew unable to maintain momentum with oars brought in.</p> <p>Crews will have experienced coxswains.</p>	2
	Accident while entering or exiting boat	2	Participants experienced at entering and exiting boats.	2

Hazard	Risk	Initial Assessment	Control Measures/Mitigation	Final Assessment
	Swamping by wash	2	<p>Boat design is such that they are not easily prone to swamping.</p> <p>Boats carry a means of bailing to remove water.</p> <p>If necessary, pull into the side of the river and climb ashore. Lift and drain the boat before resuming row.</p>	2
	Capsize	6	<p>In the unlikely event that this should happen, all crew should follow the capsize drill recommended by British Rowing https://www.britishrowing.org/knowledge/online-learning/safety/capsize-drill/. That is stay with the boat and do not try to swim ashore alone, right the boat and try to board it. Alternatively, swim the boat ashore and re-entre it from the bank. Get out of the water as soon as possible.</p> <p>The drill also covers what to do about hyperthermia.</p>	3

Hazard	Risk	Initial Assessment	Control Measures/Mitigation	Final Assessment
	Unable to finish course	2	<p>Alternative landing points have been assessed. Many areas the bank is low enough for a boat to land. However, these are dependent on the state of the tide.</p> <p>On the Waveney, there is the Angles Way, a long distance footpath, running on the south bank between Beccles and Oulton Broad and on the north bank between Beccles and Geldeston. However, access points to the footpath are limited.</p> <p>All crews will be required to carry a mobile phone to call for assistance.</p>	2
Equipment failure	General boat equipment (foot plate / heel restraints / slides) malfunction	2	All boats checked by their crew prior to going afloat.	2
	Malfunction with primary communications	8	<p>All rowing crews are required to carry a mobile phone.</p> <p>There are 'NOT SPOTS' of mobile phone coverage in the Broads. Other crews to assist and pass on messages as required.</p> <p>All mobile numbers will be logged before the event and copied round all relevant people on the day.</p> <p>Mobile phone batteries to be fully charged.</p> <p>All phones should have "What 3 Words" App to provide clear location information.</p>	5

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	Broken equipment (rudder, blades, rigger/gates)	3	<p>If the rudder is broken, the the boat can be steered by the cox giving steering instructions.</p> <p>Broken blades or riggers, the boat can be rowed by remainder of the crew.</p>	1
Minor injuries	Blisters & sores	2	<p>First aid kits at host clubs.</p> <p>Participants advised to protect hands with tape or gloves if sensitive and bring small supply of plasters for themselves</p>	2
	Muscular strains/pains	3	First aid kits at host clubs.	2
Medical emergencies	Extreme exhaustion	2	<p>Participating clubs asked to check distance is reasonable in relation to age and experience in light of normal weather expected, but forecasts to be monitored and further advice given if necessary just before event.</p> <p>Stable quad boats are able to continue with only 3 crew members (6 blades).</p>	2

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	Hypothermia	6	<p>Prolonged rain and cool temperatures particularly affect the cox who is not generating heat by exercise. Alternatively, anyone who has fallen in the water could be subject to this. Remove wet clothing and add dry wind proof clothing if available.</p> <p>Emergency situation to be reported by mobile phone to Event Control or by flagging the attention of nearby crew.</p> <p>Emergency response to be coordinated by Event Control.</p>	2
	Serious illness	3	<p>Condition of entry includes declaration of any known health conditions and allowed for beforehand.</p> <p>Emergency situations to be reported by mobile phone to Event Control or by flagging the attention of nearby crew.</p> <p>Emergency response to be coordinated by Event Control.</p>	2
	Boating accident with casualties	3	<p>Emergency situations to be reported by mobile phone to Event Control or by flagging the attention of nearby crew.</p> <p>Emergency response to be coordinated by Event Control.</p>	2

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	Weil's disease (Leptospirosis)	3	Ensure cuts and scrapes are well protected. Shower afterwards. Be aware of symptoms (leaflets available)	1
Weather & water conditions	Heat/sunstroke	3	Participants and event staff instructed to wear suitable clothing. For hot conditions would include hat, sunglasses and carrying sunscreen and water.	2
	Cold/wet	3	Participants and event staff instructed to wear suitable clothing. For cold or wet conditions would be extra layers and splash top.	1
	High winds/rough water	3	Boat design is such that they are not easily prone to swamping. Forecasts will be monitored in advance, conditions assessed on the day and crews advised accordingly. In the event of expected extreme water conditions, event would be cancelled in advance or on the day by Event Control. Alternative escape plan in place for event finish.	2
	Debris in water	2	All boats coxed and coxswains should be able to spot debris and avoid contact. Relatively slow boat speed and robust design would mean minimal damage and danger of capsizing.	2

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	Thunderstorms	6	<p>Weather forecast will be examined for the possibility of thunderstorms and decisions made on whether the row should be cancelled or delayed.</p> <p>If caught in a storm the BR 30:30 rule (get off the water and only re-boat 30 minutes after there has been a gap of 30 seconds between lightning and thunder)</p>	2
<p>Lowestoft RC Specific</p> <p>Oulton Broad</p> <p>Strong W to NW winds causing swamping of the pontoon</p>	<p>Injury to crew members land or damage to equipment when landing for lunch</p>	6	<p>Crews advised to turn parallel to the pontoon and allow the wind to blow the boats in. Shore crew on the pontoon to catch the oars and steady the approach and stabilise the boat until crew can remove outer oars and disembark.</p> <p>Shore crew to keep the boat from crashing into the pontoon until the crew with the shore crew can lift it out.</p> <p>Advise crews to go to safer landing point (Harbour master or Sailing club landing stages - Floating pontoons high so shore crew essential to hold boats steady. Alternatively land on boating ramp - both shore crew and rowers will need to enter the water and there is a danger that the boat will be grounded pushed by the wind)</p> <p>Provide hot showers for those soaked by waves or have fallen in.</p>	3

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	<p>Injury to crew members land or damage to equipment when launching after lunch</p> <p>(Local rule of thumb is that is water is lapping the pontoon we do not launch with inexperienced rowers)</p>	6	<p>Reverse the process for landing with the shore crew pushing the crew out. If bow pair have their oars clear of the pontoon they can turn the boat away from the pontoon.</p> <p>Abandon return row and load boats onto trailer and tow back to Beccles for the next day and request the bus collect crew from Lowestoft instead of Beccles.</p>	3
<p>Lowestoft RC Specific</p> <p>Safeguarding at Oulton Broad Water Sports Centre</p>	Children will be using the changing rooms on the Friday	7	<p>No access to changing rooms (toilets and showers) while children are in them.</p> <p>Alternative public toilets available nearby in Nicholas Everett Park</p>	1
<p>Beccles RC Specific</p> <p>Boat Handling</p>	Muscular strains/pains	2	Participants are experienced in boat handling.	2
	Slipping on launch and recovery slips or pontoons	2	Participants are experienced in boat handling.	2

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	Carrying 2x boats from car parking area of club. Right angle turn to be negotiated then boats carried approx. 200 yards along pathway	2	Negotiation of right hand turn to undertaken by maneuvering bow first to left, bring stern up and round the slope, once whole boat is on upper path proceed to club in correct position to launch bow first. Reverse this on return. Participants are experienced in boat handling.	2
	Launching boats to and from quay heading at BRC	4	Access ramp to landing pontoon too narrow for boat type used. Launching will be bow first straight over the quay head with participants sending/receiving boat guiding directly into water bow first, using painter line to guide boat round to landing stage. Event support team (x2 extra helping) to assist. 4 people on pontoon. Steel keel allows boat to glide across quay heading. Reverse on landing. Participants are experienced in boat handling.	3
	Cuts/grazes on sharp objects	2	First aid kit on site at BRC	2
Yare BC Specific Access at Yare Boat Club	Slippery floor or capsize of dinghy required for access to Yare Boat Club which is located on Thorpe Island, Yarmouth Road, Norwich.	2	Dinghies are limited to maximum number of passengers (2 – 8) depending on dinghy size. Instructions and assistance will be provided by experienced YBC members. Dinghy transfer of personnel is ~20m across sheltered, low traffic channel.	2
Yare BC Specific	Muscular strains/pains	2	Participants are experienced in boat handling.	2

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Boat Handling	Slipping on launch and recovery slips or pontoons or adjacent grassy areas	2	Participants are experienced in boat handling.	2
	<p>Difficulty lifting boats out at lunch stops</p> <p>Tidal variations in river height might result in a big step between floating and fixed land stages (e.g. Yare Boat Club)</p>	2	Lift height relatively low but maybe higher than rigger level. Crews will be asked to help each other and Event Control's bank crew will provide additional help for first and last boat.	2
	Cuts/graazes on sharp objects	2	First aid kit on site and with Event Control	2
Boat launch and recover at Norfolk Broads Yacht Club	Submerged rocks (possibly slippery and sharp) at public slipway resulting in boat damage or injury	3	Crews are experienced. Crew members That wade into the water to aid launch/recovery should wear hard-soled shoes to limit the possibility of injury. Open cuts and scratches should be covered with a waterproof plaster. The painter should be held by the coxswain who should identify and notify the crew of submerged obstacles.	2