

Raft Building

Location

This activity takes place on the river Yare above Keswick mill and below Cringleford Bridge. The river has a constant gentle flow and is between 0.5 and 2 metres deep. The river is not more than 20 metres wide at any point.

Equipment

Buoyancy aids, helmets and paddles are provided. The rafts are built from wooden poles, ropes and barrels. Suitably skilled group/youth leaders may construct and use the rafts themselves or centre staff will organise the activity to suit the requirements of the group.

Health & Hygiene

Appropriate clothing must be worn with consideration given to the prevailing weather conditions at the time of the activity and the fact that clothes will get wet. Footwear suitable for treading water in should be worn. Full toilet and hot shower facilities are available and all participants in this activity are encouraged to shower and change clothing after the activity.

Hazard	Hazard Effect	Risk Control Measures
Falling in the water.	No effect. Cold shock, panic, collision injury, hypothermia, drowning.	Buoyancy aid worn at all times. Qualified instructors trained in rescue techniques & first aid. Group briefed by instructor on safety and capsize procedures. Activity session plan modified to accommodate weather conditions and participants age and ability.
Water borne infections. Weil's disease.	Infection, illness, varying symptoms.	Cuts and abrasions covered with waterproof dressings. Group briefed on risks. Shower advised after activity.
Poor instruction & leadership.	Muscle strains & injury through incorrect techniques. Group separation. Drowning.	Minimum qualification requirement for instructors and on-site assessment. Continuous observations by Centre management and feedback from user groups.
Hypo/ Hyperthermia.	Too hot/cold, minor to severe effects.	Group leader awareness of individual susceptibility. Instructor awareness of prevailing conditions. Ability to evacuate to indoor facilities quickly: 300metres.
Equipment failure.	Slight to severe injury. (Bleeds, breaks, bruising) Drowning.	Visual check of buoyancy aid and paddle on each use. Repair or destruction of damaged equipment. Regular testing of buoyancy aid (twice yearly). Regular check of wooden spars for decay. Regular check of ropes and barrels.
Collision with other rafts, craft or obstructions.	No effect. Bruised/trapped fingers/limbs.	Avoid or remove visible obstructions. Avoid another watercraft. Leader awareness of proximity of other rafts.
Debris/rubbish in river.	Cuts to feet from unseen rubbish in riverbed.	Footwear to be worn.
Entrapment.	Bruises, shock, panic, collision injury, hypothermia, drowning.	Instructors to make sure they carry the knife provided to use in an emergency. Minimise area of entrapment while building and planning rafts
Nettle Stings	Allergic reactions stings	Groups reminded to use their paddles to avoid colliding with nettles that line the bank
Wildlife on river	Distress, physical injury	Instructors to monitor wildlife on water. Ensure group keeps distance from swans.

Eaton Vale Scout and Guide Activity Centre

Risk Assessment



		During the Bird flu epidemic further inspections of the birds along the river will take place with calls being place to RSPCA and DEFRA. Liaising with EVRA about further birds found in the area.
Dogs across the river	Stress, Psychological damage, Bites	Groups to be reminded that if the dogs do come to the bank and bark, they should remain calm and quiet and paddle away from the bank Instructor to try and ensure that groups stay close to the Eaton Vale bank as they are paddling
Scouting specific		
POR 9.42 not being adhered to	Reputational risk for centre and Scouting group. Emotional harm to young people	POR is linked on our website, during booking POR 9.42 is communicated to groups.