



1st Kesgrave Scout Group

Twelve Acre Approach, Kesgrave, Suffolk IP5 1JF

Name of activity, section, event, and location	1 st Kesgrave Scout Group - Waterside Activities, Paddling, Pond Dipping, Crabbing etc	Date of risk assessment	1 Mar 2025	Name of person who undertook this risk assessment	Alan Comber (working with others)
		Date of next review	1 Apr 2026		

This document covers paddling, pond dipping, crabbing, fishing, boating ponds, rock pooling and any other waterside activity. It should be read in conjunction with the section meeting and events risk assessment which covers generic items along with POR guidelines: [section 9.13.1 water-based activities](#) and the [CCPR Group Safety at Water Margins document](#).

Hazard identified? Risks from it?	Who is at risk?	How are the risks already controlled? What extra controls are needed?	What has changed that needs to be thought about and controlled?
A hazard is something that may cause harm or damage. The risk is the harm may occur from the hazard.	For example: young people, adult volunteers, visitors	Controls are ways of making the activity safer by removing or reducing the risk from it. For example, you may use a different piece of equipment, or you might change the way you do the activity.	Keep checking throughout the activity in case you need to change what you are doing or even stop the activity. This is a great place to add comments which will be used as part of the review.
Terrain / Venue	All present	Keep away from sluice gates, weirs, overflow pipes, locks, slippery steps/slopes, rocky areas, where livestock are present (can knock you in), large drops etc or where currents may be fast or unpredictable. Is the area downstream or around the corner also suitable/safe (in case someone falls in the water and is taken there). If someone falls in the water, can you get them out with a towel, stick, or any public equipment available (throw line, lifebuoy) or could you wade in to get them out without putting yourself in danger. Remember that sudden and unexpected immersion in cold water has a rapid and dramatic effect on the body's systems and will impair people's ability to reach safety.	

		If entering the water ie paddling, ensure you find an area where you can get in and out easily, no deep mud, vegetation, rocks, roots, rusty cans or wires underfoot. For still water the depth should not exceed waist height and for moving water not above knee height, as moving currents above knee height can knock you over. Avoid areas below cliffs (lose stones falling, being dislodged). If you are near the sea or an estuary, check tidal conditions, so you know when high tide is, how high it will reach, and whether there are any strong local currents. Avoid areas that could be cut-off or submerged by a sudden wave or quick rise in the tide level? The tide may advance more quickly than your group can retreat. Also avoid steeply shelving shingle beaches, where one step could take someone out of their depth. Check to make sure there are no electrical pylon wires overhead or in the immediate vicinity that could get caught up in any fishing lines etc. If possible, select an area that has waterside barriers in place and check that the barrier is sturdy and not damaged.	
Waterside Activity	All present	Ensure participants are wearing suitable footwear – cover feet, footwear that doesn't come off easily (no crocs, wellingtons etc), laces done up etc. <u>General</u> Participants should be briefed/given appropriate training for the activity and cover as appropriate: • The kit being used and what to do with anything caught ie look behind you before pulling out nets/fishing lines, safe ways to pick up crabs, ways to get the caught item off the line/hook, how to handle hooks inc tying on etc • How to handle and use any bait • The dangers involved ie aware of what is near to you; the risk of falling in the water, accidentally being hit by the kit, not dangling your legs over the side, not entering / walking into the water without permission, not leaning too far over with a net, picking up large, submerged objects with a net etc • Keeping an appropriate gap between participants so they can undertake the activity safely, especially for fishing where the rear casting area should be clear of obstructions, other anglers, visitors or pets. • Keeping out of the way when not taking part in the activity itself. • Raising the alarm immediately if someone falls in the water by shouting or using a whistle or other signal.	

1st Kesgrave Scout Group

		- The importance of the welfare of the wild life they are catching and handling; - Have pots pre-prepared with pond/sea water and a little vegetation for shelter; - Keep containers nearby and do not keep invertebrates out in strong sun light; - Where possible, do not keep predators in the same container as their prey; - Use the right size container and be mindful of delicate body parts; - Release back to same habitat. A throw line / lifebelt should be available at the water's edge. Consider whether a wading stick would be appropriate for emergencies or checking access to the water for paddling.	
Personal Hygiene and Well Being – rashes, odours, illness, constipation etc	All present	Ensure participants: - Have any existing cuts covered eg with a waterproof plaster. - Have access to drinks (hot / cold) as appropriate to the weather conditions. - Drink enough water and do not dehydrate. - Apply sun cream / wear hats in hot / sunny weather - sunburn - Wear sunglasses if needed - eye strain - Wear glasses if they need them and have a suitable strap attached, - Apply lip balm in cold/windy conditions - Have towels and spare clothes available to change into after the activity if there is a possibility participants may get wet. - Do not drink the water - Do not eat during the activity (or if participants need to, wash hands before doing so). - Have any injuries looked at and dealt with appropriately and in a timely fashion. If fishhooks are used, they should be barbless. Do not use rusty hooks. Participants informed to wash hands afterwards and provided with details of Weils disease.	
General Behaviour – over energetic young people leading	All taking part	Have a clear location for those not participating in the activity that is safely out of the way.	

1st Kesgrave Scout Group

to loss of control and causing an injury or damage to kit.		Participants should be briefed as appropriate to their abilities/knowledge on: • Not playing with kit ie throwing or waving nets about, using nets as spears, swords etc. The dangers of injury or poking someone in the eye. • Not running around the area • Not to use the kit without adult supervision. • Not pushing, dragging or ducking others.	
Leadership – Inappropriate / Inadequate Leadership	Leaders and Helpers	Ensure leaders are competent to lead the activity and ideally have previous experience of it. Participants should be positioned so that leaders can see them all while they are involved with the activity. Participants should be closely supervised at all times. Avoid overcrowding and consider limiting the number of participants on any boardwalks etc	
Accessibility / Inclusiveness / Health Issues	All present	Ensure the activity takes account of any health issues such as being frightened of the water, vertigo or frightened of heights etc. Ensure appropriate arrangement are in place for non-swimmers (inc supervision and floatation devices). See POR rules on water-based activities for details.	
Incidents	All present	Ensure participants can easily move away from the area in the event of an emergency ie structure collapsing	
First Aid / Injuries that need treatment	All present	Ensure the first aid kit has provision for hypothermia – survival bag, aluminium blanket etc and you have suitable antiseptic wipes for cuts. Tweezers should be considered to help with removal of hooks.	
Other Control Measures - Trading Standards, Environmental Health and Health & Safety at Work	All Present	If possible, determine the water quality of the area being used.	
Weather - rain before and during the activity, hot weather causing heat exhaustion or sun stroke, lightning, darkness.	All present	Assess the weather risk before and during the activity and act accordingly. Damp / wet weather can make the ground slippery. Do not run an activity during heightened or adverse weather conditions such as lightning, hail, strong winds and other unsuitable weathers conditions.	

1st Kesgrave Scout Group

		If heavy rain has been happening before the day, consider the implications on water depth and flow rates.	
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