



Site Specific Risk Assessment: Scrabster Harbour

Introduction

This is a **Specific Location risk Assessment** for Club paddling activities based from Scrabster Harbour.

Risk Assessment

The Key injuries to individuals are:

- Personal Injury
- Downing
- Infection

Hazards	People who are at risk	Risk	Control Measure(s)
Harbour Operations Including moving vehicles; lifting operations	All Canoe Club participants	Personal Injury	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ On land activities are restricted to Scrabster beach; the areas adjacent to the Pentland Firth Yacht Club or using official car parks and footpaths ■ Club members are not to access the quaysides during Club activities
Vertical Drops Falls into water or onto land	All Canoe Club participants	Personal Injury Drowning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Club members are not to access the quaysides during Club activities



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<p>Uneven Ground</p> <p>Creating slip and trip hazards</p>	All Canoe Club participants	Personal Injury	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Where possible use established footpaths ■ Appropriate footwear to be worn
<p>Water</p>	All Canoe Club participants	Drowning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Swimming will only be permitted when under direct supervision. ■ No canoe club land based activities to take place around the main quays of Scrabster Harbour ■ Paddling is only from the Scrabster beach area or the slipway adjacent to the Pentland Firth Yacht Club ■ A personal flotation device is to be worn during paddlesport activities
<p>Water Quality (contamination).</p> <p>Sewage, hydrocarbons,</p>	All Canoe Club participants	Infection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ No paddling in the Harbour Basin ■ Prevention measures against water borne infection are:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Cover all cuts and abrasions with waterproof plasters



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Hazards	People who are at risk	Risk	Control Measure(s)
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Always wear footwear to avoid cutting the feet ○ Avoid capsizing or rolling practice in suspected water. ○ Where possible shower soon after the activity ○ As a minimum always wash your hands after paddling and before eating or drinking. ■ If within 3–19 days after paddlesport a participant feels ill with a temperature, influenza-like illness and/or joint and muscle pain and possibly jaundice, they should see their doctor immediately and inform the doctor that they have been taking part in water sports and



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			<p>where they have been paddling and mention that Weils Disease / Leptospirosis is suspected.</p>
<p>Vehicles</p> <p>Vehicle Collisions, impact injury to pedestrians.</p>	<p>All Canoe Club participants</p> <p>Members of the Public</p> <p>Other Harbour users</p>	<p>Personal Injury</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Where possible use established footpaths ■ Park in recognised car parks ■ Scrabster Harbour Speed Limits to be observed ■ Club participants to go directly to activity meeting location
<p>Shipping (Commercial & Pleasure)</p> <p>Collisions, interference with activities harbour activities</p>	<p>All Canoe Club participants</p> <p>Other water Users</p>	<p>Personal Injury</p> <p>Downing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ When in the Scrabster seaward harbour limit (see Appendix 1), a member of the group is to monitor Channel 12 for harbour marine traffic information ■ No paddling in the Berth/Quay area of the harbour (see Appendix 2)



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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Avoid paddling in the main approaches to the harbour berth (see Appendix 3). ■ The main approaches to the harbour berth (see Appendix 3) is to be treated as a shipping channel (no coaching; rescue practice in this area). ■ Should it be necessary to paddle across the main approaches to the harbour, the Harbour Master is to be contacted (see Appendix 3) for permission ■ When paddling out of Scrabster beach head, the main approaches to the harbour berth should be avoided (see Appendix 3). ■ Paddling activity should avoid, where possible, PFYC evenings.



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Hazards	People who are at risk	Risk	Control Measure(s)
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Paddlers are to keep clear of the Queen Elizabeth Berth during departure and arrival times of the Scrabster/Stromness ferry – Trip leaders to be aware of times ■ Beginners/novices not to be taken into the main approaches to the harbour berths (see Appendix 3)
<p>Vermin</p> <p>Rats, Mice</p>	<p>All Canoe Club Participants</p> <p>Members of the Public</p> <p>Other harbour users</p>	<p>Infection</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ All rubbish is to be either taken home or disposed of designated bins ■ Evidence of vermin to be reported to the Scrabster Harbour Trust ■ General prevention measures against infection are:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Cover all cuts and abrasions with waterproof plasters



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Hazards	People who are at risk	Risk	Control Measure(s)
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Always wear footwear to avoid cutting the feet ○ Avoid capsizing or rolling practice in suspected poor water quality. ○ Where possible shower soon after the activity ○ As a minimum always wash your hands after paddling and before eating or drinking. ■ If within 3–19 days after paddlesport a participant feels ill with a temperature, influenza-like illness and/or joint and muscle pain and possibly jaundice, they should see their doctor immediately and inform the doctor that they have been taking



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			<p>part in water sports and where they have been paddling and mention that Weils Disease / Leptospirosis is suspected.</p>
<p>Weather</p> <p>Wind, Sun, Temperature</p>	<p>All Canoe Club Participants</p>	<p>Personal Injury Drowning</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Obtain weather forecast prior to event ■ Alter activities if weather conditions pose a significant threat to the continued safety of the group. ■ Ensure suitable clothing/equipment is worn by participants ■ Set targets suitable for the ability of the group.
<p>Wildlife</p> <p>Danger from attack/injury</p>	<p>All Canoe Club Participants</p>	<p>Personal Injury</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Respect local wildlife habitats. ■ Adhere to the Scottish Canoe Association's Sea Paddling Guide to Good Practice with the overarching principle to minimise any disturbance



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			<p>that you might cause to the animals / habitats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Pass wildlife slowly and quietly allowing plenty of space. ■ Avoid rescue practice were there are blooms of jellyfish
<p>Fishing Activities (Commercial and Pleasure)</p> <p>Entanglement and entrapment</p>	<p>All Canoe Club Participants</p>	<p>Personal Injury Downing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Avoid paddling near fisherman ■ Avoid capsize / rescue practice near buoys, fishing nets/lines



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The above risk assessment was carried out by

Name:	Ken Nicol
Signature:	
Designation:	Secretary / L5 Coach
Date:	15 April 2024

The formal review date for this Risk Assessment is no later than 30 April 2025.



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APPENDIX 1

Boundary of the Scrabster Harbour Limit



- Definition of the seaward harbour limit from a point on the shore at Holborn Head at grid reference (ND 10949 71559) in a straight line due north to (ND 10949 73168), then in a straight line due east to (ND 16617 73168) then in a straight line approximately east south east to (ND 19813 71844) then in a straight line due south to (ND 19813 69431) then in a straight line approximately west north west to (ND 16840 70662), then in a straight line due west to (ND 14423 70662), then in a straight line approximately west south west to the old Coastguard Station Scrabster at (ND 10700. 69120).



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APPENDIX 2

Prohibited Area for Club Paddlesport Activities

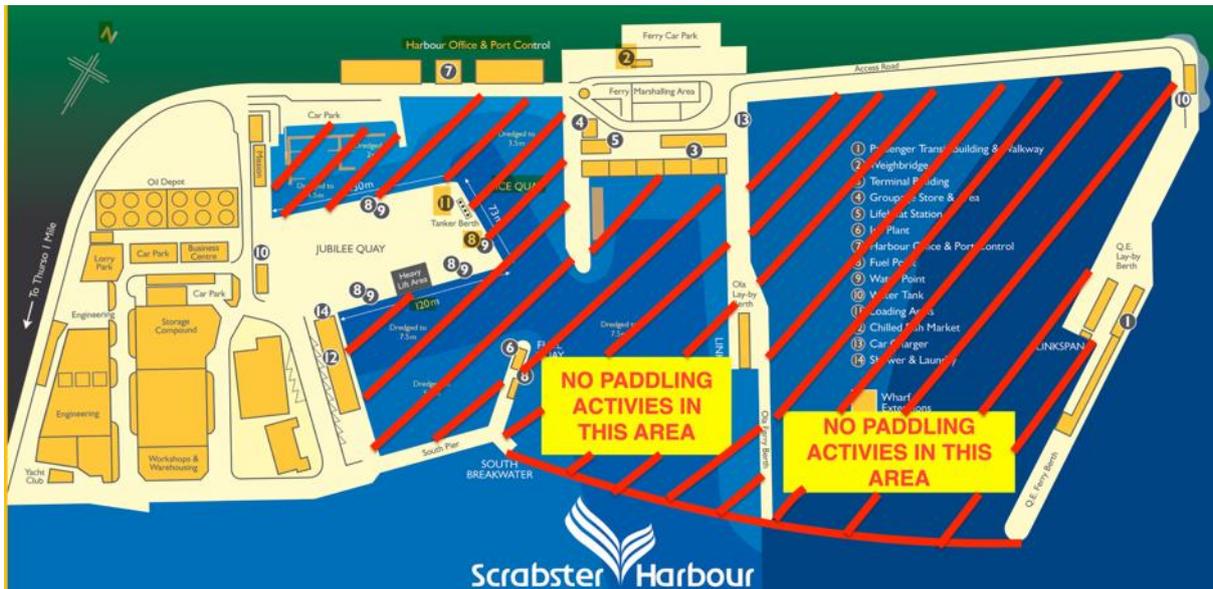


Figure 1: Prohibited Paddlesport Area at Scrabster Harbour



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APPENDIX 3

Main harbour approach area & preferred route for kayaks



Yellow circle: indicates main approaches to the harbour berths

Yellow arrow: indicates preferred course for kayaks to take when departing/arriving from Scrabster Beach