

Embercombe Risk Assessment

Lake Swimming (includes rafts and boats)

Description of main hazards and hazardous events:

Wet decking and muddy surfaces. Slips, bruising, head injuries. Head injuries. Shock from cold water, respiratory problems for some people. Drowning, hypothermia. Legs or limbs becoming trapped in submerged foliage. Swallowing water containing Blue-green algae. Suffering side effects of consumption. Splinters, cuts, rope burns whilst building rafts. Head injury caused by rafts and subsequent drowning. Feet or arms become tangled in rope attached to boats or rafts.

Persons exposed: Employees Volunteers Clients / Public
Contractors Vulnerable groups

Existing controls:

Children under the age of 13 should be supervised by a designated adult. Decking condition monitored by Site Manager. Staff and volunteers to report if condition is poor. Ladder is provided. People are verbally advised not to dive into the water. People are verbally advised to enter the water slowly. Life ring is supplied. Advice is not to swim alone. First aid kits contain foil blankets. First aiders on site. Buoyancy aids available. Someone is nominated as a life guard to watch the organised sessions. Competent swimmers are nominated to watch the swimming session. Life ring is supplied. Advice is not to swim alone. People are verbally advised to avoid lake edges unless at jetty or slip way. When a life guard is present this is to be actively monitored. Lake is visually monitored for the presence of algae. Organic farming on site reduces the amount of nutrients washed into lake. All volunteers and staff are advised on manual handling techniques. During organised sessions the facilitator should advise on manual handling. Timber allocated for raft building should be inspected for condition. Nails should be removed or made safe. Lashing techniques should be part of the introduction to raft building. Rafts are constructed so that there is no unnecessary loose rope.

Guidelines on ratios*

Organised swimming = 1 x Life Guard, 1 x Other staff (Max 20 in water)

Organised rafting = 2 x Life Guard, 1 x Other staff (Max 20 in water)

*Ratios may be increased for vulnerable groups

Are there any further controls recommended? No

Summary of Safety Advice

Do not swim alone.
Take care on the decking and slipway areas.
Enter the water slowly to allow your body to adjust.
Do not dive into the water. Use the ladder to enter the water.
Be aware of foliage underneath the water, especially near the lake sides.
Buoyancy aids are available. Ask a member of staff.

Other risk assessments you should read; [General Site](#)

Assessment by: Rob Kendall

Job title: Site Manager

Signed:



Date: 18th June 2013

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