

DCC Little Ouse risk assessment



This DCC risk assessment is for a trip away from home water. It supplements the DCC generic risk assessment for the Deben and should be read with that document. This document only addresses risks which are additional to those experienced by the DCC on the Deben.

Location details:	The River Little Ouse, from the centre of Thetford to Santon Downham. The risk assessment assumes that we will be paddling with the Sudbury CC.
Valid until:	9 April 2027

Assessor:	Joff Hayes	Date:	8 April 2026
Approver:	David Rich	Date:	10 April 2026

What are the hazards?	Who might be harmed and how?	What are you already doing to control the risks?	What further action do you need to take to control the risks (and by when)?
Group Control	All Participants	The issue is that Sudbury and Deben will get mixed up on the water. As part of the initial briefing the Deben group is clearly identified to all Deben Coaches.	Deben will make sure that they keep track of all Deben Paddlers. The Deben group will close up so that Weirs and Strainers can be handled together.
Strainers (Trees and other obstructions)	All Participants	Group will be Briefed on the Risks of obstructions in the flow. Group Control will be maintained to allow managed passing of obstructions. Appropriate safety & rescue gear will be carried to allow rescues to be progressed if required.	All Coaches/ Leaders on the trip to address

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Weirs	All Participants	Deben CC will not be shooting the Weirs. All paddlers to keep away from the green barriers at the entrance to the weirs (Stay upstream of the barrier). Some of Sudbury CC may shoot the weirs but this is under their leaders' control.	All Coaches/ Leaders on the trip to address
Unknown Obstructions	All Participants	Good group control is expected so that the group can stop if an obstruction is suddenly found.	The Deben Lead Coach will join the Sudbury Lead Coach for a recce of the river before the trip to ensure that all obstructions are understood.
Access/Egress	All Participants	There is generally good access/egress from the river Little Ouse and for much of the river there is a path along the river bank. Specific Egress Points: • Thetford: ///commuting.proves.bends • Thetford Weir: ///consoles.lies.fled • Thetford A11: ///slices.opposites.ruler • Abbey Heath Weir: ///seashell.salads.reprints • Two Mile Bottom: ///bypassed.petition.builds • Santon Downham: ///regret.hubcaps.cracks	Leader will carry phone with W3W on it.

This risk assessment was first documented in December 2024.