

Garners Field River Operating Procedure

The River Wey passing through the edge of Garners Field is currently classed as a B1 water.

The B2 sluice at the south-west corner is out of bounds to all users

For all river activities a river assessment must be carried out by the leader in charge immediately prior to the activity. This is to take into account river levels and flow and suitability for the planned activity, river flow information can be found here: <https://check-for-flooding.service.gov.uk/station/7231?direction=u>. We do not suggest the river is used for 24h after a heavy downpour (see chart for sudden rise in water levels) due to the increased water pollution risk due to flooding of upstream farming land. Local Sewage map can be viewed here: <https://www.sewagemap.co.uk/>

The useable river area is defined as between the post located under the small tree approximately 30ft downstream of the slipway and upstream to the northwest corner of our property, both which can be viewed from the bank area adjacent to the slipway, The operating area of the water is visible from anyone operating a safety role from the bank.

Due to how waterways are owned and managed in the UK we have permission to use this part of the river from the landowner opposite but on the proviso that we do not trespass up onto the far bank, if you wish to do a river crossing exercise pre-approval for the activity must be sort via the Wardens Team so we can obtain permission from the landowner. We have worked hard to ensure a good relationship which has led to great co-operation in keeping the waterway clear of trees and debris for our safe use.

Under normal conditions the river depth is between ankle and chest deep of an average adult of approximately 5'8" standing. The deepest sections are a small area approximately 30ft north of the slipway on the near side bank and the far northern end where there are sections of slightly deeper water. Please be aware there are areas of underwater rocks roots and soft sand operators need to be aware this is a natural river not a dug canal!

Due to the proximity of active farm land good hygiene and handwashing is essential! Please do not allow food to be consumed on the water and ensure any water bottles that have entered the water are cleaned before use. Farnham Scouts do not accept any responsibility for injury or illness arising from failure of the operator to follow these guidelines.

For all activities involving under 18s in or on the water a safety rope must be installed at one of the 2 points shown in the map, the first point is adjacent to the down water side of the slipway and the other at the point approximately 30ft downstream as mentioned above please decide on which (or both) and ensure it is mentioned in your RA for the activity. An adult MUST stay down stream of all under 18s on the water at all times, we suggest a single adult is designated this role to save confusion, this does not need to be a permit holder for the activity.

All relevant PPE must be worn for any activity where it is deemed needed and any used must be checked for suitability by the leader in charge prior to the activity commencing. All under 18s must wear a BA and Helmet if any Canoe, Kayak, SUP or Rafts are used.

Stand-Up Paddle Boards: Standing is not allowed due to the dangers presented by the risk of falling from a standing position **BUT** we will allow SUPs to be used either from a kneeling or sitting position. PLEASE NOTE: if any representative of the Wardens team views ANYONE standing up on a board the activity will be immediately stopped and the SUPs will need to be removed from the camp-site, no refunds for the activity will be given.

Area of Usable River.

The diagram below shows the 2 safety rope points either or both may be used as stated above whichever is used defines the useable downstream point of the river and the purple line designates the upstream furthest point anybody may go, please ensure all users are aware of this.

There is a rescue ring and rope on the bankside marked on the diagram below by the orange circle.



Any one operating or viewing from the bank should not approach closer to the water than the flat mowed areas.

If handmade rafts or rubber duck races are carried out all objects floated down the river **MUST** be retrieved and removed from the river after use. There is a flatter area of the bank upstream, level with the climbing enclosure that can be used as a launch point.

Please **DO NOT** bring anything on-site to use to change the level or flow of the water by blocking the sluice