

Safety

Kayaking and canoeing are assumed risk sports,

While ALL participants in this event are responsible for their own individual and group safety, group leaders have a duty of care to those paddling with them. • Ask for information regarding river levels and hazards

• Remember the river level can change rapidly and this WILL affect your group risk assessment

A team of experienced paddlers will be based in Warden Gorge to provide advice and assistance. The presence of safety cover on the Gorge does not replace your own group control and safety measures. As this is a Site of Special Scientific Interest, access and portages are restricted.

Novice paddlers should NOT attempt this section and should egress at Barrasford. We will monitor this and reserve the right to take action against organised groups that disregard this warning. All paddlers considering paddling water over grade 2 must be experienced and able to paddle to that standard and understand current rescue techniques.

Inspect Barrasford Rapid, (river left) as this is a fast-flowing, narrow and shallow shoot with large boulders in the main flow. There is a high possibility of getting pinned. This is not advisable for Novice or Open boats.

Look out for the warning signs. Ensure that you are properly equipped following BCU recommendations with correctly fitted CE marked buoyancy aids and helmets on All rivers and All disciplines.

Use canoes or kayaks with proper buoyancy and grab handles and take a throw line, Open canoes attempting Warden Gorge must have enough buoyancy to float

the canoe safely if capsized. Carry a first aid kit, split paddles, survival bags, and other safety equipment and know-how to use it!

Do not depend on other paddlers for your group's safety.

Please ensure that the Stewards at the Information point are advised of any incidents as soon as possible. On Saturday the Tyne Descent Race will pass through Warden Gorge between 11 am and 1.30 pm.

Please give way to competitors. They will be wearing bibs. Be aware that darkness falls at about 4 pm. Please use your judgment and be off the river Before dark. Do not set off unless your journey will end before nightfall.

In the event of a Swim

- **Stay calm and listen to instructions**
- **Let go of your boat and paddle**
- **Lift your feet and raise your arms for the throw line**
- **Grab the rope and hold it across your chest**
- **Roll onto your back**
- **Follow instructions for safe egress**



Wark to Barrasford
Easy touring run suitable for beginners and also open boats
Grade: 2
Length: 7 Miles

Barrasford to Hexham
This trip's highlight is Warden's Gorge, a short 100m of bouncy grade 3, levels are controlled by Kielder dam which releases regularly. Normally a release is scheduled for the weekend of the Tyne Tour however this cannot be guaranteed.
Grade: 3
Length: 7 Miles

Warden Gorge
Novices should NOT attempt this section or portage due to SERIOUS access problems. It is a Site of Special Scientific Interest. Novices MUST get out at Barrasford Rapids. This will be monitored. Paddlers considering water over Grade2 must be capable of paddling at this level and understand rescue techniques. This is a 100m section of Grade 3/4 Water depending on the levels.

Haydon Bridge to Hexham
A safe trip for beginners and a step up from the Corbridge trip
Grade: 2
Length: 7 Miles

Hexham to Corbridge
Easy beginner trip with large sections of flat water.
Grade: 1
Length: 4 Miles

