



www.coraclesociety.org.uk

Guidelines for using coracle safely

1. Always wear an approved buoyancy aid
2. Be a proficient swimmer. The British Canoe Union recommends 50m in light clothing as a minimum standard
3. Learn how to use a coracle on still or slow moving water
4. The limitations of the coracle are:
 - a. If it capsizes it cannot be re-entered
 - b. Because of its shallow profile in the water, and the position of the paddler in the boat, the coracle can be rapidly blown downwind
 - c. Due to its lack of forward speed it is also at the mercy of any currents
 - d. There is no built in buoyancy. Therefore if the coracle skin is punctured, it will sink
5. Be aware of your own limitations
6. It is strongly recommended that you never go on the water alone. Always inform someone of where you are going and try to go in groups of at least two people
7. Even in the summer, UK waters are usually cold and wind chill can be a serious problem. Take a windproof top if venturing far
8. Never walk with a coracle on your back near the water's edge, especially on a windy day.
9. Be vigilant and keep an eye out for submerged articles in the water that could puncture the coracle's skin
10. Always respect the water.

The EC Convener of the International Standards Organisation committee in the Leisure Crafts Stability tested a coracle and subsequently designated it BASIL – Buoyancy And Stability Inherently Limited.