



Axe Vale Canoe Club (AVCC)

Contact us at: info@axevalecc.co.uk

Website: <http://www.axevalecc.co.uk/>

Affiliated to Paddle UK



Bob's Open Canoe Weekend – 40th Anniversary 3rd, 4th & 5th July 2026 (Tidal Estuary and Coastal Paddling)



This event, based at Axmouth Devon is organised by Axe Vale Canoe Club and was the first in Britain designed to introduce Open Canoeists to estuary and coastal canoeing. This annual event is referred to as Bob's Open Canoe Weekend after a much loved club member Bob Ottley.

We have arranged for the separate camping field as usual at Axmouth Caravan & Camping Site¹, which is located on the side of the estuary at Axmouth and gives direct access to the water when the tide permits. The full Axe Vale Canoe Club facilities will also be available for use with trips, and are also used when the tide prohibits access at the camp site. These facilities, including parking if needed, are included within the meet fee. The site accepts caravans, motorhomes and tents, however power is only available in the main field (**see note 1**); there are toilets, showers, laundry and shop on site – please read the Campsite Rules on Page 2.

Essential Safety Information:

- All participants shall wear **ISO/ENC approved buoyancy aids**.
- Each canoe shall have 12.5kg (30lbs.) minimum **buoyancy** securely fixed at each end.
- Each canoe shall carry a **spare paddle**.
- **Under 18s shall wear a Helmet** on trips and, desirably, all adults carry one with them on trips.

The event programme is at all times approximate and may be adjusted to suit the conditions on the day, but we intend to keep the general framework of:

Programme (2026):

Friday 3rd July	17:00 onward	Participants arrive, set-up, book-in and complete paperwork
Saturday 4th July	08:00	Participants arrive, set-up, book-in and complete paperwork
	08:45	Coaches' meeting
	09:00	Arrangements for day.
		Trips and courses commence with coaches
	18:30	BBQ/firepit will be available on site for general use.
		If the weather and tides permit an evening paddle up the river may be available.
Sunday 5th July		As Saturday
	15:00	Return to site - MEET CONCLUDES AT 16:00hrs

¹ Caravans and mains power access are limited to the Main Field; so if you want either of these, pitches should be booked direct with Axmouth Camping Site. In which case you will pay them directly, so choose a Non-camping place when booking onto the BOCW on WebCollect.

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Contact for questions or on the day: Chris Robin - 07501 973648

Or e-mail: info@axevalecc.co.uk or treasurer@axevalecc.co.uk

Possible Trips:

- Seaton towards Lyme Regis (e.g. Charlton Bay or the Jurassic Slabs), or towards to beaches/cafes at Beer and Branscombe
- Up the river with its exciting river features (to first road bridge - tidal limit).
- Want to paddle other stretches of coast? Let us know by the end of May and we shall see if it may be possible subject to weather, leaders, etc. E.g. Budleigh/Sidmouth, Charmouth.

Course Options (TBC on the day):

Open Canoe skills ---- Throwline, Rescues ---- Sailing, poling, lining & tracking

If you are happy to help demonstrate skills or give a talk on a trip made, please let Chris know.

Other local attractions for evenings or those not paddling:

Seaton is approximately a mile away and has Tesco, shops, pubs, restaurants, take-aways, etc. (It also has a Premier Inn and B&Bs for those who like their comforts!)

For those not paddling (although we would try and persuade you that to be on the river is wonderful and why not consider a 'controlled' trip up the river?) there are many places to visit and walks to do. To name a few: Seaton tramway runs up the side of the estuary and offers bird-watching opportunities, the Donkey Sanctuary is a short trip away, the Axe Golf Club welcome visitors, Beer (beaches, cream teas, crab sandwiches, art shops, Pecorama, caves) & Branscombe (NT properties, cream teas, beaches) are a pleasant walk along the coast path, and, of course, Lyme Regis (The Cobb, etc.) and fossil hunting at Charmouth.

Campsite Rules:

- No wood may be burnt on-site, all BBQs and firepits must be fuelled by Charcoal.

- The on-site speed limit is 5mph and must be strictly adhered to (children, etc.).

- All vehicles entering the site (whether camping or not) must be registered with us.

Please report at the camp office immediately on arriving before coming through to the allocated area in the field and registering at the club's marquee.

Directions to Campsite:

Please note: The following directions are from J25 on the M5 to the campsite at Axmouth. The majority of other routes will lead into some point along these directions.

J25 Take A358 to Chard - 13.5 miles. At traffic lights in centre of Chard, proceed forward on A358 to Axminster 7.2 miles. At Axminster follow A358 towards Seaton and its junction with the A3052 4.8 miles. At A358 - A3052 junction proceed forward onto B3172 towards Axmouth 1.2 miles.

At entrance to Axmouth village - single line road restriction, proceed forward, road bends to the right going downhill, road levels out, village buildings both sides, proceed to railings around village hall on left-hand side, on right-hand side adjacent to Harbour

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Inn Public House car park, very narrow entrance to Axe Farm Camping (01297-24707), the event site is straight through first camp field. Note long vehicles and caravans are advised to go past the site, turn round and approach entrance from Seaton direction.

The campsite postcode is **EX12 4AG**. (AVCC Club postcode is EX12 4AA)

Organiser:

Chris Robin, Dymond Cottage, Dunsford, EX6 7DA
Tel: **07501 973648**

e-mail: info@axevalecc.co.uk Using 'BOCW' as the reference.

Booking:

Booking is through our website Axe Vale Canoe Club (AVCC) where you will find more details of the event, area and us

(<http://www.axevalecc.co.uk/Events/OpenCanoeWknd/opencanoewknd.htm>).

(Click the 'Apply Here' button and make your booking via WebCollect)

Each person attending will need to apply on-line for just one of these options. Camping is limited to 2 nights within the options provided.

Item	Description	Cost (2 nights camping)	Cost (1 nights camping)	Cost (not camping)
Paddling Adult	2 days - including BBQ use, AVCC facilities, parking, etc.	£30	£20	£10
Paddling Junior	11-17 yrs incl – BBQ use, including AVCC facilities	£20 (2 days)	£10	Free
Non paddling adults or juniors	2 days - including camping, BBQ	£20	£10	Free

Further nights may be booked direct with the campsite (01297 24707).

We will be following Paddle UK guidelines and our risk assessment will include measures to help reduce risk of contagion; for example, hand sanitiser availability, etc.

Canoe Loan:

Loan of AVCC canoes may be possible depending how many are needed. Priority is given to AVCC club members booking before 6th June; and requests from non-club members will then be considered (for a small donation). If you loan a canoe you are responsible for sanitising all equipment after use.