



Trip Report

River Wye, Symonds Yat 1 June 2021

Over 20 members of the club made the trip to Symonds Yet for a day of introductory whitewater skills training and practice. Half-term week and a warm and sunny forecast meant that the car park was quickly filling up on arrival with activity club participants and families all taking to the water on a variety of craft.

There had been persistent heavy rain in the 7-10 days preceding our visit and although the river had dropped to a medium level (0.6m on the Ross on Wye gauge) water was passing through the rapids at pace. All eddies were in play, but conditions were far from easy for many of the beginners in the group.

After warming up and a quick safety briefing, the day started with some break in/out and ferry glide practice on the easier flowing section above the rapids. Despite the boat traffic everyone equipped themselves well and stayed dry, so it was time to head down to the rapids.



Once a few nerves were settled we spent two enjoyable sessions before and after lunch tackling the rapids, with our junior paddlers excelling themselves and enjoying watching some of their parents take an unplanned swim. Conditions on the water meant there was something for

everyone to enjoy, including a couple of small waves to surf, some tricky attainments to make working against the flow, and plenty of rescue practice.



We finished the day with some swimming practice making the most of the fantastic weather.

Photos: Sam Smith