

TNR at Chester Zoo

We get to do some pretty special jobs and work with some incredible companies at TNR one of our favourite companies we work for is Chester Zoo. In 2015 the zoo increased its size by around 20% when it opened its Islands area. A South East Asian themed section immersing guests into Asia and seeing some of the awesome wildlife that thrives there. For anyone who hasn't visited Chester Zoo the centre piece of the attraction is an automated boat ride modelled on the traditional long boats found throughout SE Asia. We helped design the safety extraction protocols and provide the safety and rescue training for the staff.

Several times a year we get to enter the Zoo after hours to deliver this training. In the early days before there was even water in the Island ride and that whole area of the zoo was under construction we performed the initial training in the water around the Giraffe



enclosure, I will never forget some of the most unique directions I think I will ever get from the security. "Drive through the gate, past the lions and over elephant bridge, drive around the vultures and park up opposite the Giraffes.



Please keep your speed down as not to upset the Lions and other animals" said totally normal as if it was "left at the next lights"! It was pretty awesome as the lions were not used to seeing people at that time of the day and were certainly not used to two blokes driving massive 4x4s around at that time of the day! As there were no ride boats even built at this stage, we used some old power



boats as substitutes for the teams to clamber in and out of and tow, paddle and pole around.

In case of ride break down or in an emergency staff need to be able to extract guests, quickly calmly and safely to various jetties around the ride. We train and assess the staff to paddle



Canoes in ones, twos and threes to paddle out to the 20ft long ride boats disconnect them and paddle them back to the jetty. We also train in basic reaching rescues with poles, paddle, and ropes, as well as some basic first aid thrown in too!

We can't wait for this awful pandemic to be over and for us to get back visiting the zoo, professionally as well as taking our families as it is such a great day out.

