



**2009 European Canoe Slalom Championships
Holme Pierrepont, Nottingham, Great Britain
28th – 31st May 2009**

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27th December 2008 - BUILDING work to upgrade the facilities at Holme Pierrepont's slalom course to Olympic training standards should be finished by February, officials said today.

The £700,000 project is designed to help give Britain's canoeists an opportunity to train there in the build-up to the London 2012 Olympics.

Chris Hawkesworth, from the British Canoe Union, said: "It is on time and on budget.

"We are looking forward to it being complete, subject to testing around the third week of February.

"It should all be running for the first weekend in March. We are very optimistic.

"It gives us an opportunity to train ahead of the Broxbourne course being built [for London 2012].

"Some of the waves will be bigger.

"It should be faster, it should be more varied and it will be capable of hosting more disciplines."

The changes include raising the water flow and depth while moveable obstacles will mean the course can be adapted for different users.

This will enable elite canoeists to practice in white water conditions, which replicate the challenges they will face during the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

The facility will be run by Notts County Council from April 1 when the authority takes over the management, operation and redevelopment of the centre.

The slalom is part of a £10 million overhaul, which should also make the centre more accessible to the public.

Besides upgrading current facilities, the investment will bring a range of new attractions, such as Britain's first Flowrider indoor surfing machines.

Chris Baron, Nottinghamshire's Cabinet member for environment and sustainability, said: "The new course will be fantastic, both for elite canoeists to train and for recreational users to have fun.

"The increased flow and features of the course will make it a white knuckle ride for white water rafters and a real challenge for canoeists.

"This is the first of our exciting plans for the centre we have delivered, that will assure its reputation as a premier sports facility in the country."

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