

Walk leader:	Walk location:
Date of walk:	Date of risk assessment:
	Date of recce:

Use this risk assessment as a starting point to think about your specific walk. We recommend making a note of any additional hazards. Review and share your plan with walkers on the day – and make changes if you need to.

What are the risks or hazards?	What could happen and who could be harmed?	How we manage the risks	Notes (continue overleaf)
Lack of confidence and/or skill	Leaders are stressed and overwhelmed Walkers are exposed to unnecessary risks	- All new walk leaders complete introductory training and make the most of opportunities to develop their skills - Peer support available from more experienced leaders - Leaders only lead within their capabilities	
Too many people walking in the group	Leaders are stressed and overwhelmed Walkers are exposed to unnecessary risks	Leaders manage group size with help of a backmarker and if necessary intermediate marker(s) for larger groups	
Walkers act recklessly	Walkers put themselves and others at risk Leaders are stressed and overwhelmed	- Give a walk briefing before setting off to share your plan and expectations - Communicate with walkers throughout the walk	
Weather	Walkers are exposed to extreme cold, heat, or wet	- Check the weather before the walk - Let people know what to wear and what to bring - Make contingency plans - Set an appropriate pace and take breaks as needed - Stay alert to changing conditions and adjust plans accordingly	
Terrain	Walkers trip or fall, resulting in injury	- Leaders may complete training on Preventing & Managing Incidents (mandatory for new leaders) - Check for muddy/slippery/steep sections when planning - Advise walkers of terrain and suitable footwear in advance - Make contingency plans to draw on if needed in response to the group & conditions - Zigzag up/down any steep sections – highlight benefits of walking poles - Offer reassurance to nervous walkers & take adequate breaks - Adjust plans on the walk if needed	

What are the risks or hazards?	What could happen and who could be harmed?	How we manage the risks	Notes (continue overleaf)
Unsafe/unstable geographic features or obstacles (e.g. water, tides, rock fall, overhangs, fallen trees)	Walkers trip or fall, resulting in injury	- Follow any local warnings or signs and advise walkers to keep away from sheer drops/edges - Check paths are suitable for a group to use safely and make changes if necessary - Make contingency plans to deal with unexpected features and obstacles - Avoid crossing any significant water features – use bridges or other recognised water crossing points - Check the tide times	
	Walkers get into difficulty in water		
Livestock	Walkers are at risk of injury from livestock	- Cross fields with livestock calmly and quietly, keeping the group together - Follow the Countryside Code (England & Wales) - Leave gates and property as you find them	
	Property is damaged		
	The wider public are at risk of injury from escaped livestock		
Roads	Walkers are at risk of road traffic accident	- Maintain single file on any road sections without footpath/pavement - Plan route to avoid busy roads where possible - Check for suitable crossing places	
	Other road users are at risk of accident		
Getting lost/ Losing walkers	Walkers get lost	- Where possible, recce the route a week or so in advance (or carefully plan with good local knowledge, guidebooks/maps, online research) - Leaders are familiar with the route and make contingency plans in case changes are needed - Pre-register phone with 999 emergency text service - Know the hours of dusk and darkness and plan accordingly - Carry relevant kit – for example a whistle and a compass - Leader knows who is on the walk and liaises with back marker - Regular headcounts - Communicate with group throughout the walk	
	Walkers are exposed to extreme cold, heat or wet		
	There is a communications blackout		
	Walkers run low on food/drink supplies		
Accident or medical emergency	Walkers require first aid or medical attention	- Leaders may complete training on Preventing & Managing Incidents (mandatory for new leaders) - Refer to SBR Emergency Procedure (reverse of checklist) - Know how to contact the emergency services - Ensure mobile phone is fully charged and consider carrying a power bank - Carry a first aid kit	