

## Leisurely and Moderate walks

Name of Walk:

Walk Leader:

Date:

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
<b>Lack of confidence and/or skill</b>	Leaders are stressed and overwhelmed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All new walk leaders complete introductory training and make the most of opportunities to develop their skills</li> <li>Peer support available from more experienced leaders</li> <li>Leaders only lead within their capabilities</li> </ul>
	Walkers are exposed to unnecessary risks	
<b>Too many people walking in the group</b>	Leaders are stressed and overwhelmed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Leaders refer to recommended ratios and manage group size depending on the specific circumstances Identify additional helpers (e.g. walk assistant, co-leader or backmarker) for large groups</li> <li>Advertise any limits on group size (and booking information, if needed) in advance</li> <li>Where needed, limit invitations to people with a specific shared experience (e.g. women-only walks, cancer support groups)</li> </ul>
	Walkers are exposed to unnecessary risks	
<b>Walkers act recklessly</b>	Walkers put themselves and others at risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Share information with walkers in advance to establish clear expectations and responsibilities</li> <li>Give a walk briefing before setting off, to share your plan and expectations</li> </ul> <p>Communicate with walkers throughout the walk</p>
	Leaders are stressed and overwhelmed	

## Leisurely and Moderate walks continued.

What are the risks or hazards?	What could happen and who could be harmed?	How we manage the risks
<b>Weather</b>	Walkers are exposed to extreme cold, heat, or wet	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Check the weather before the walk</li> <li>• Let people know what to wear and what to bring</li> <li>• Make contingency plans</li> <li>• Set an appropriate pace and take breaks as needed</li> <li>• Stay alert to changing conditions and adjust plans accordingly</li> </ul>
<b>Getting lost</b>	Walkers get lost	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Where possible, recce the route a week or so in advance – or carefully plan with good local knowledge, guidebooks and/or maps</li> <li>• Leaders are familiar with the route and contingency plans in case changes are needed</li> <li>• Ensure appropriate navigation skills in the group for the walk and possible conditions</li> <li>• Pre-register phone with 999 emergency text service</li> <li>• Know the hours of dusk and darkness, and plan accordingly</li> <li>• Carry relevant kit – for example a whistle, headtorch and emergency shelter for more remote walks</li> <li>• On more remote walks, complete a Route Card in advance and leave a copy with a designated Emergency Point of Contact (EPOC) – “late back procedure” should be implemented by the EPOC if needed</li> </ul>
	Walkers are exposed to extreme cold, heat or wet	
	There is a communications blackout	
	Walkers run low on food/drink supplies	
<b>Terrain</b>	Walkers trip or fall, resulting in injury	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Leaders complete training on Preventing &amp; Managing Incidents</li> <li>• Check for muddy/slippery/steep sections when planning</li> <li>• Advise walkers of terrain and suitable footwear in advance</li> <li>• Make contingency plans, to draw on if needed in response to the group &amp; conditions</li> <li>• Zigzag up/down any steep sections – highlight benefits of walking poles</li> <li>• Offer reassurance to nervous walkers &amp; take adequate breaks</li> <li>• Adjust plans on the walk if needed</li> </ul>
<b>Unsafe/unstable geographic features or obstacles</b> (e.g., water, tides, rock fall, overhangs, and fallen trees)	Walkers trip or fall, resulting in injury	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Follow any local warnings or signs and advise walkers to keep away from sheer drops/edges</li> <li>• Check paths are suitable for a group to use safely and make changes if necessary</li> <li>• Make contingency plans to deal with unexpected features and obstacles</li> <li>• Avoid crossing any significant water features – use bridges or other recognised water crossing points</li> <li>• Check the tide times</li> </ul>
	Walkers get into difficulty and drown	

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What are the risks or hazards?	What could happen and who could be harmed?	How we manage the risks
<b>Livestock</b>	Walkers are at risk of injury from livestock	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cross fields with livestock calmly and quietly, keeping the group together and any dogs on a short lead (releasing the dog if charged by cows)</li> <li>• Follow the Countryside Code (England &amp; Wales) and Scottish Outdoor Access Code (Scotland)</li> <li>• Leave gates and property as you find them</li> </ul>
	Property is damaged	
	The wider public are at risk of injury from escaped livestock	
<b>Roads</b>	Walkers are at risk of road traffic accident	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintain single file on any road sections without footpath/pavement</li> <li>• Plan route to avoid busy roads where possible</li> <li>• Check for suitable crossing places</li> </ul>
	Other road users are at risk of accident	
<b>Roads (driving)</b>	Road traffic accident puts walkers and other road users at risk of injury	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Remind walkers that the drive to/from the walk is often the riskiest part of the day</li> <li>• Remind drivers to take care, take adequate rests on longer journeys and maintain fluid/blood sugar levels at the end of the day</li> </ul>
<b>Losing walkers</b>	Walkers could get left behind/lost	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Leader knows who is on the walk – asking for names and emergency contact details</li> <li>• Regular headcounts and communication with the group</li> <li>• Appoint a backmarker</li> <li>• Communicate with group throughout the walk</li> </ul>
<b>Accident or medical emergency</b>	Walkers require first aid or medical attention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Leader knows who is on the walk – asking for names and emergency contact details</li> <li>• Ask walkers to complete and carry an In Case of Emergency (ICE) card</li> <li>• Leaders complete training on Preventing &amp; Managing Incidents</li> <li>• Know how to contact the emergency services</li> <li>• Ensure mobile phone is fully charged, and consider carrying a power bank</li> <li>• Carry a first aid kit – and extra supplies/layers to keep people comfortable while waiting for help to arrive</li> <li>• Ensure appropriate first aid awareness and skills amongst the group</li> </ul>