

Risk assessment - Canal walk/ trail/ scavenger hunt.

Name of activity, event, and location	8 th Chelmsford Scouts - Canal walk/ trail/ scavenger hunt.	Date of risk assessment	20/07/2026	Name of person doing this risk assessment	Kerri Jeffrey
		Date of next review	20/07/2027	Version	1.0

What hazard have you identified? What are the risks from it?	Who is at risk?	How are the risks already controlled? What extra controls are needed?	What has changed that needs to be thought about and controlled?
A hazard is something that may cause harm or damage. The risk is the harm that may occur from the hazard.	For example: young people, leaders, visitors	Controls are ways of making the activity safer by removing or reducing the risk from it. For example, you may use a different piece of equipment or you might change the way you do the activity.	Keep checking throughout the activity in case you need to change what you're doing or even stop the activity. This is a great place to add comments which will be used as part of the review.
Uneven ground due to tree roots, etc. Slips, trips or falls	All present	Visit location beforehand to determine route. All participants are told to walk slowly and to look where they are going.	
Irritable and poisonous plants e.g. Nettles. Giant Hogweed, etc	All present	Leaders/Participants told how to identify irritable plants and to try to stay away from them (information available from Canal & River Trust). Pre-activity safety talk to include this issue including some 'dos' and 'don'ts'. Leaders to be aware of emergency procedures in place should any problems arise. All participants wash hands as soon as possible after any activity and before eating or drinking. A leader to be first aid trained and to have a kit on them.	
Use of equipment for scavenger hunting/bug hunting, etc	Participants	All participants receive instruction before using any equipment	
Moving heavy objects such as logs, stones, rocks, etc	All present	Young participants should not be allowed to lift any heavy objects and should always have help lifting other small logs and stones. Older participants should have instruction in moving larger items before activity commences.	
Contact with insects, etc	All present	Participants instructed with regard to insect types they may encounter. Leaders to be aware of any participant who is known to suffer from	

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		allergic reactions. Leaders are made aware of emergency procedures and are equipped with mobile phones to contact emergency services.	
Getting lost	All present	Instructions given at the start of the activity. Scouting guidelines followed with regard to ratios of Leaders/participants. Regular head counts. Lost participant procedure.	
Falling into canal/river	All present	Site visit required to determine route. Participants to be supervised at all times. Avoid overcrowding near the water's edge. Participants are briefed before commencement of activity. Leaders or Waterways Guide are trained in basic rescue procedures.. Leaders/Waterways guides should know where to find rescue aids as part of the emergency procedure. Leaders are advised to walk the path between the participants and the canal or reservoir's edge where appropriate and dependant on the age range of participants. Remember SAFE: Stay Away From Edge.	
Operable structures such as locks, swing bridges, etc.	All present	Participants to be supervised at all times when near any operable structure. Where possible and if not causing an obstruction viewing should be undertaken from a footbridge if present. Brief participants with regard to crossing the canal and using a footbridge if present and not the lock gate	
Boats	All present	Participants to avoid going near boats and briefed with regard to moored boats and entrapment between boat and bank.	

DOCUMENT VERSION CONTROL

Version Number	Changes Made	Changes Made By	Date
1.0	Document Version Control Log Created	Kyla Flack	16/09/2026

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