

Risk Assessment – Hike / Night Hike

Name of activity/ event/ location	Hike/ Night Hike	Date of Risk Assessment	10/09/2026	Name of who undertook this risk assessment	Martin Holtham-Payne/ Stuart Collett Kerri Jeffrey
		Date of Next Review	10/09/2027	Version	1.0

Hazard Identified? / 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?
Hazard – something that may cause harm or damage. Risk – the chance of it happening.	Young people, Leaders, Visitors?	Controls – Ways of making the activity safer by removing or reducing the risk from it. For example - you might use a different piece of equipment or you might change the way the activity is carried out.	Keep checking throughout the activity in case you need to change it...or even stop it! This is a great place to add comments which will be used as part of the review.
Hazard - extreme weather Risk - hyperthermia/Sunstroke	All	Appropriate clothing to be used/available - wet/cold weather gear/warm clothing.. Hot weather - suncream, hat. Appropriate amount of water per young person to be carried. Parents to be advised through OSM. To be checked before setting off.	
Hazard -slippery ground Risk - falling injuring themselves/death		Guidelines for appropriate adult supervision for outside activities to be followed. Adult supervision required for night hikes. Route to be carefully considered whether suitable for traversing in the dark. All participants have a torch at night. Training in what to do in the case of emergency (first aid/one to stay with injured/two to go for help (if no mobile coverage available), write down grid reference before leaving/use tent/survival shelter/get out of wet clothing) Personal first aid kits to be carried by all individuals and/or group first aid kit. Suitable footwear to be worn. Parents advised by OSM. Check clothing before leaving for hike	

Additional information can be found in the Safety Checklist for Leaders and other information at scouts.org.uk/safety

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Hazard - getting lost Risk - Unable to find way to meeting point	All	Night hikes to be supervised Compass and maps to be carried where appropriate Charged mobile phones to be carried by adults. Head count to be carried out before start and several times on route. Adults walk to the front of the hike and another to bring up the rear of the hikers.	
Hazard - crossing roads Risk - injury/death	All	Route planned to avoid roads where possible, footbridges/pedestrian crossing to be used. Hi Vis/fluorescent covering for backpacks to be used. Pretraining to include road safety, reminder to be given at start of event	
Hazard- Drop off and Pick up Risk- Knocked over by cars	All	Designate a meeting point away from cars Ensure parents are aware of drop off and pick up points prior to event on OSM	
Hazard- Strangers Risk- Abduction	Scouts	Scouts will be briefed not to wander off from their designated groups. Scouts should always stay in minimum of pairs, In case they need the toilet etc	
Hazard – exhaustion/tiredness Risk – bad temper, lack of participation, discontent, personal injury	Everyone	- Leader conducted recce of planned hike approximately 2 weeks before event to check for risks including incline level of terrain, steps to climb and total distance to ensure will not be too demanding on young people. -Parents to advise and leaders to check young people participating are fit and well enough to endure the hike.	

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		- Anyone not well enough is not to take part or may be able to complete a partial hike so long as leaders/adult ratios permit potential splitting of groups doing the hike. - Leaders trained to spot signs of over-exertion - Leaders to monitor food and water intake and regular snack breaks scheduled to keep energy levels up. - Designated rest points to be utilised to prevent exhaustion and tiredness. If any person becomes unwell on hike a rest/break point in the hike to be instigated immediately and first aid/refreshment provided if necessary. - Hike to be cut short or cancelled for any persons identified at risk.	
Hazard – Animals Risk – being trampled/personal injury/	Everyone	- Leader conducted recce of planned hike approximately 2 weeks before event to check for risks including farming fields that may have animals within them specifically cows/bulls. - The hike is planned to minimize the crossing of fields. - Alternative routes to be considered or the event is cancelled if not possible. - Risks are not to be taken with animals that are unpredictable and have the propensity to cause real harm. - Where there is electrical fencing around animals - everyone to be briefed to follow the correct procedure of following the footpath in single file.	
Hazard – Water such as rivers, streams, ponds or lakes Risk – drowning (death), infections such as Leptospirosis and hypothermia	Everyone	- Leader conducted recce of planned hike approximately 2 weeks before event to check for risks including water such as rivers, streams, ponds or lakes. - The hike is planned to minimize the crossing of water and where necessary ensuring safe passage by bridges or stepping stones that are secure. - Leaders to be extra vigilant when the hike path is near water.	

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		- All crossing points to be supervised by adults/leaders to ensure everyone has crossed safely. - Crossing to be done in single file and at a steady pace. - Young people are reminded to stay on paths and not to walk too close to river or stream banks. - Leaders to ensure young people do not misbehave near water and remind them of water safety. - Nobody can walk or sit down on the walls of bridges. - Everyone wears suitable footwear. - Hand sanitiser to be used if anyone should come into contact with water.	
Hazard – Misbehaviour of young members Risk – personal injury	Young People Leaders	- Safety briefing given at the start of hike. - Boundaries set from the beginning and closely supervised by leaders and adults. - Leaders or adults to intervene in any misbehaviour to prevent escalation or harm to others. - Consequences of misbehaviour to be actioned as deemed appropriate by leaders.	
Hazard – Falling Trees Risk – personal injury		- Leader conducted recce of planned hike approximately 2 weeks before event to check for risks including wooded areas. - In the event of high winds, events to be cancelled, or route changed to avoid wooded areas.	
Review due: A risk assessment needs reviewing if circumstances change but also schedule regular reviews to ensure they are current, perhaps every 12 months? The review must include a detailed look at each element of the risk assessment in order to establish if any change is required.			

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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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HQ Template Published February 2019