

Rother Ramblers

1808 www.rotherramblers.org.uk

Group Walks – Risk Assessment Form for Leisurely & Moderate Walks

NAME OF WALK		
DATE OF WALK		
What are the risks or hazards	What could happen and who could be harmed	How we manage the risk
Too many people walking in the group	Walkers are exposed to unnecessary risks	- Identify additional helpers (e.g. walk assistant, co-leader or backmarker) for large groups. - The Walk Leader may cancel or cut short the activity if necessary.
Walkers act recklessly	Walkers put themselves at risk	- Give a walk briefing before setting off to share your plan and expectations. - Communicate with walkers throughout the walk.
Livestock	Walkers are at risk of injury from livestock	- Cross fields with livestock calmly and quietly, keeping the group together and any dogs on short leads. - Be prepared to divert around livestock if necessary. - Lave gates and property as you find them.
Roads	Walkers are at risk of road traffic accident	- Walk Leader to give verbal indication at identified hazard locations. - Maintain single file on any road sections without footpath/pavement. - Walk to face oncoming traffic except when instructed by Walk Leader. - Check for suitable crossing places and appoint traffic look-out at difficult crossing points. - Wear Hi-Viz vest at high-risk locations.
Terrain	Walkers trip, or fall, resulting in injury	- Check for muddy/slippery/steep sections when planning the route. - Walk Leader to give verbal indication at identified hazard locations. - Adjust plans on the walk if needed.

Obstacles	Walkers trip, fall, or contact obstacles resulting in injury	- Follow any local warnings or signs and advise walkers to keep away from edges or sheer drops. - Check paths are suitable for a group to use safely and be prepared to make changes as necessary. - Walk Leader to give verbal indication at identified hazard locations.
Getting lost	Walkers get lost Walkers are exposed to extreme heat, cold or wet	- Where possible, recce the route in advance – or carefully plan with good local knowledge, guidebooks and/or maps. - Walk leader to carry relevant OS Maps, compass, Mobile App, or GPS on the walk.
Losing walkers	Walkers could get left behind/lost	- Leader knows who is on the walk – asking for their names and emergency contact details. - Regular headcounts and communications with the group throughout the walk. - Appoint a backmarker.
Accident or Medical Emergency	Walkers require first aid or medical attention	- Leader knows who is on the walk – asking for their names and emergency contact details. - Know how to contact the emergency services. - Ensure mobile phone is fully charged and consider carrying a battery power bank. - Carry a Basic First Aid Kit. - Ensure appropriate First Aid Awareness and skills amongst the group.

Other hazards identified during walk:	Walk Leader, print, sign & date:
	
	(a copy of this risk assessment should be securely stored for 36 months)