



BOLTON WALKING AND OUTDOORS APPRECIATION SOCIETY RISK ASSESSMENT DOCUMENT

RISKS ASSOCIATED WITH SPECIFIC ACTIVITY

WALK DESCRIPTION: Hawkshaw Circular from Waggon and Horses

PROPOSED DATE OF WALK: 25.3.26

ASSESSMENT COMPLETED BY: Catherine Lock & Angie Hunt

RISK ASSESSMENT COMPLETED: 22.3.26

ROUTE LAST COMPLETED: 14.3.26

		PRECAUTIONS OR NOTES SPECIFIC TO THIS ACTIVITY
Woodland, forests, deadfall, foliage	<p>Risk of falling trees, branches and deadfall especially in high winds..</p> <p>Risk of minor injuries from branches and thorns.</p>	<p>There are trees/branches likely along parts of this route, low hanging tree branches, uneven terrain, exposed tree routes during parts of the walk route (woodland and footpaths) excess foliage droppage due to time of year. Participants to be aware of foot placement. Volunteers to remain attentive and offer advice where required.</p>
Livestock and domestic animals Wild animals.	<p>Risk of stampeding cattle causing injury or distress to all in group.</p> <p>Risk of sheep, cattle and other animals being worried by dogs.</p> <p>Risk of any animals or other dogs exciting dogs in the group.</p> <p>Risk of disease or infection from sheep and deer tick bites.</p> <p>Risk of dogs from outside the group attacking.</p>	<p>There is livestock present in the fields (sheep and horses were encountered during recce). Dogs to be kept on lead at all times through livestock fields. There are signs also requesting dogs to be kept on leads. Volunteers to remain attentive and offer advice where required.</p> <p>Group will be passing through sheep field, distance to be kept from livestock if possible. Dogs to be kept on lead at all times</p> <p>Dogs to be kept on lead at all times</p> <p>Dogs to be kept on lead at all times</p>
Watercourses and bodies of water.	<p>Risk of injury to all members of group due to slips or trips.</p> <p>Risk of death by drowning to all members of group.</p> <p>Risk of becoming cold and wet to all members of group.</p> <p>Participant may experience discomfort due to falling into a ditch, stream or other body of water that is deeper than expected.</p>	<p>There are watercourses that are along part of the route. Two of which are shallow stream water run off from the fields, the foot path crosses without means of solid bridge and will require assistance from volunteers to ensure safe passage across should a participant be struggling. There are some some large set stones, although care to be taken as these can be slippery. There are two deeper watercourses which have means of a solid bridge to cross over. Participants to remain away from water edges at other times. Volunteers to remain attentive and offer assistance where required.</p> <p>Volunteers to be attentive to participants who may stray from designated paths and advise accordingly to stay away from the water edges.</p> <p>Volunteers to be attentive to participants who may struggle to cross the shallow stream crossings.</p> <p>There are two shallow stream water crossings of which the public footpath tranverses through (water run off from fields). This is weather dependent. Volunteers to assist where required if participant struggles.</p>
Road and Farm Traffic	<p>Risk of collision between participant/s and vehicles.</p> <p>Risk of dogs being "spooked" by vehicles.</p>	<p>There is a farm road of which may encounter farm traffic. Volunteers to remain attentive for traffic and advise participants accordingly. Participants to be aware this is a live road. There are no other major road crossings along this route.</p> <p>Dogs to be kept on lead at all times</p>
Difficult terrain, such as wet grass, mud, uneven terrain, tree roots, bog.	<p>Risk of injury to all members of group due to slips or trips.</p> <p>Participant may become distressed if they are not confident crossing certain terrain.</p> <p>Participant may experience discomfort due to falling into bog that is deeper than expected.</p>	<p>Uneven terrain is covered above, there are also fields that are rather boggy, care to be taken with descents and inclines which may be slippery. There is shooting range of Holcombe Moor Military range, of which the footpath crosses alongside. There are warning signs around the compound about the military range and also risk gauge.</p> <p>Participants should be physically fit to complete the walk and to wear sturdy footwear. Volunteers to be attentive and to support ease concerns of participants who may be struggling. Group to have regular stopping points agreed to check on wellbeing.</p> <p>Terrain is expected to be very muddy due to season</p>
Stiles, gates, barbed wire, fences and other boundaries.	<p>Risk of injury due to slips and trips.</p> <p>Risk of injury due to sharp objects.</p> <p>Risk of Tetanus due to sharp metal objects.</p> <p>Risk of damaging clothing due to sharp objects.</p>	<p>There are numerous stiles along the route, many of which do have barbed wire close. One stile has barbed wire across it and requires covering before group climb over (Volunteer to place covering to enable climb.) Participants to be aware of climbing over their footing as some wood can be slippery. There are some stiles along the route do not have wide enough access for dogs and dogs may need to be supported by being carried over. There is a broken stile of which has a fallen wire fence which is used to traverse across, participants to take care with ease of crossing over the fallen wire fence. There are gates along the route, to ensure closure after the last person has passed through. Volunteers to remain attentive and offer assistance where required.</p> <p>Barbed wire is present along the route, and also wrapped around some stile posts, care to be advised. Covering required over stile that has barbed wire across it. Volunteers to remain attentive and offer assistance where required.</p> <p>Barbed wire is present along the route, care to be advised. Volunteers to remain attentive and offer assistance where required.</p>

GENERAL RISKS ASSOCIATED WITH ALL WALKING ACTIVITIES

PROCEDURE FOR ALL BWOAS WALKS

Safety briefing by volunteer/s at the start of activity and/or leading up to any hazard will outline any areas where care must be observed, and advice participants to be aware of any implied risks caused by the hazard.

Volunteers to carry suitable mapping, two-way radio and first aid kit and make themselves familiar with route plan and Risk Assessment.

Volunteers will provide advice and physical assistance where possible and where appropriate.

RISK	POSSIBLE IMPLICATIONS	PRECAUTIONS TO REDUCE OR PREVENT RISK
Participant becoming split from group.	Participant wandering into danger while unsupervised. Participant becoming distressed. Other participants becoming cold or distressed while walk leader searches.	Group numbers should be 1:8 volunteer:participant ratio and MUST NOT exceed 1:12. Volunteers to remain alert and observant. Regular regrouping points and "head count". Clear advice to be given by volunteer/s if the group needs to wait in a safe place and stay together while a hazardous obstacle tackled or road crossed on an individual basis.
Navigation error leading to group getting lost.	Group may encounter unperceived hazards. Participants may become distressed.	All volunteers will carry adequate mapping and route information, and a two-way radio. The routes for all BWOAS activities have been previously completed in full by at least one volunteer.
Illness, injury or inadequate levels of fitness leading to a participant being unable to complete the activity. Pre-existing medical conditions causing problems for a participant.	Participant may experience pain, discomfort, distress embarrassment. Participant may require medical assistance. Participant may decide to leave the group of their own volition, as per Terms and Conditions, and then become lost or subject to a worsening condition. Other participants may become cold or distressed should leader need to take time to seek medical assistance or accompany participant to a safe location.	All advertised information about the activity will include information of how strenuous the route is, including distance, ascent gained and expected time to complete. Booking process requires participants to agree to carry their own personal medication and must accept responsibility for ensuring they are fit enough to attend based on advertised information. All volunteers will carry a first aid kit and will remain attentive to all participants around them, checking for signs of fatigue or distress. Safety briefing by volunteer/s at the start of activity will identify all volunteers to participants. Volunteers will ensure a sensible pace that is manageable by all members of the group.
Snow or Ice	Risk of injury to all members of group due to slips. Risk of collision between participant/s and vehicles.	Activities will be cancelled or an alternate route offered if dangerous icy conditions are expected. Volunteers will provide advice and physical assistance where possible and where appropriate. Booking process requires participants to agree to wear sturdy footwear and dress appropriately for the weather. Volunteers to exercise extra attentiveness around traffic.
Moorland or Wild Fire	Risk of smoke inhalation to all members of the group. Risk of getting trapped in an area due to spreading fire.	In the event of volunteer/s being made aware of any moorland or wild fires in the area that the activity is taking place, volunteer/s will liaise with Planning and Admin Committee Members and advise of cancellation or reschedule of the activity, or an alternative route or activity will be offered."
Sun and heat.	Risk of sunburn or sunstroke to all members of group.	Booking process requires participants to agree to dress appropriately for the weather.
Stiles, gates, barbed wire, fences and other boundaries.	Risk of injury due to slips and trips. Risk of injury due to sharp objects. Risk of Tetanus due to sharp metal objects. Risk of damaging clothing due to sharp objects.	Safety briefing by volunteer/s at the start of activity and/or leading up to any hazard will outline any areas that damaged stiles, gates and barbed wire will be encountered, and instruct participants to be aware of any implied risks caused by the hazard. Volunteers will provide advice and physical assistance where possible and where appropriate.
Participant suffers allergic reaction. Participant suffers asthma attack Participant suffers epileptic or other fit.	Participant will experience discomfort. Participant is likely to become distressed. Participant may require medical assistance.	Booking process requires participants to agree to be responsible for carrying their own personal medication. Volunteer/s will alert emergency services in the event of an emergency.
Encountering a member of public who is injured or distressed.	Participants becoming distressed or in danger. Member of public may be in danger.	Regardless of the circumstances, the first priority will always be to ensure the safety and wellbeing of participants. Volunteer/s may assist the member/s of public where possible and where appropriate.
High Winds.	Risk of injury due to being blown over. Risk of falling trees, branches and deadfall.	Activities will be cancelled or an alternate route offered if dangerous high winds are expected. Volunteers will continually risk assess any activity where woodland is encountered during high winds.
Heavy Rain.	Risk of injury due to slipping on wet grass or rock. Risk of flooding and watercourses becoming dangerous to cross	Activities will be cancelled or an alternate route offered where appropriate if dangerous heavy rain or flooding is expected. Booking process requires participants to agree to wear sturdy footwear and dress appropriately for the weather.
Mist, Fog and Low Cloud.	Risk of navigation errors due to poor visibility. Risk of collision between participant/s and vehicles.	All volunteers will carry adequate mapping and route information, and a two-way radio. The routes for all BWOAS activities have been previously completed in full by at least one volunteer. Volunteers to exercise extra attentiveness around traffic.

Lightning Strike.	Risk of participant/s becoming distressed. Risk of severe injury or death caused by lightning.	Activities will be cancelled or an alternate route offered if storms are expected. Volunteers will direct the group back to the start/finish point if an unexpected storm begins close by during an activity.
Nightfall.	Participant may get separated from group due to impeded visibility. Risk of navigation errors due to impeded visibility. Risk of collision between participant/s and vehicles due to impeded visibility.	Booking process requires participants to agree to carry a torch during all activities. Safety briefing by volunteer/s at the start of activity will remind participants that they should have a torch on their person. All volunteers will carry adequate mapping and route information, and a two-way radio. Volunteers to exercise extra attentiveness around traffic.
Communication in the event of an emergency.	Time in raising the alarm may be costly to a casualty. Participants may become cold or distressed while volunteer/s attempt to contact emergency services.	Activities to take place in areas with good mobile telephone reception, where possible. All volunteers will carry adequate mapping and route information, and a two-way radio.