

Risk assessment

Name of Section or Activity	Walking and Hiking Includes all Walks & Hikes at Terrain Zero	Date of risk assessment	8 th February 2021	Name of who undertook this risk assessment	Tris Cocks
		Date of next review	August 2024		

Terrain Zero describes terrain which meets one of the following two criteria taken from POR, Rule 9.28:

1. Meets all the following criteria:
 - a. Is below 500 metres above sea level; and
 - b. Is within 30 minutes travelling time from a road which can take an ordinary road-going ambulance or a building which is occupied (such as a farm) or another means of summoning help (such as a telephone box); and
 - c. Has no steep slopes or rocky terrain, where a slip may result in a fall (routes or areas where the average person would need to regularly use their hands at least for balance if not for actual progress. This does not stop people from using their hands as an aid to confidence.)
2. Is a road, or path adjacent to a road, on which you would expect to see traffic.

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.
Supervision	All	- Supervision of YP to comply with Ratios listed in POR - Clear responsibilities are to be outlined in the briefing to Leaders and Participants - Leaders shall walk with inexperienced participants - Participant groups may walk without a leader where the leader in charge has assessed their experience and navigation skills. These groups will be met along the route at waypoints to ensure safety.	
Weather – Sunstroke, Hypothermia, Sunburn,	All	- Weather to be checked prior to commencing activity; Activity to be modified to suit weather conditions. - Pre-session briefing will include information about suitable and spare clothing. - Leaders to ensure participants have access to correct clothing for the weather conditions, prior to commencing the expedition - Leaders to ensure that suitable clothing is worn throughout the expedition for the current weather conditions, i.e. Waterproofs, Sun hat, Coat, Hat	

Additional information can be found in the [Safety Checklist for Leaders](https://scouts.org.uk/safety) and other information at scouts.org.uk/safety

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Location Specific Hazards – Disorientation, unknown hazards	All	- Leaders to be familiar with the route and suitable escape routes - Safety briefing to be given prior to commencement of the activity to help orientate Leaders and participants and to identify and hazards. Briefing to include; - Groups to keep to the tracks - Groups to stay close together - Asking questions to the Leader if unsure - Following the country code - Escape routes - Briefing to continue throughout the walk as appropriate - Venue for Stops to be determined by Participants wants, needs, ability and environmental conditions. - Venue for stopping should be close to appropriate Escape Routes - Venue to be checked clear for avoidable hazards	
Falls, Falling Objects, from above, Slips, Trips and Falls - Injury	All	- Appropriate routes will be selected. - Proper briefing of participants, behaviour monitored and managed appropriately, vigilance required by all Leaders during activity. - Participants to work together in groups rather than individually. - Guidance to suitable footwear given before session	
Unprepared for conditions – Injury, Disorientation.	All	- Participants will be advised of the need for- - Suitable footwear - Waterproofs - Spare warm clothing - Food/drink - Suitable fitness for route / terrain - Leaders will carry- - Group shelter - Emergency food and drink for the group - Group First Aid kit - Radio/Mobile Phone - Map/compass	

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Medical Conditions - Injury / Illness	All	- All participants are required to provide information about significant medical requirements and will ensure that any essential medication is accessible. - The leaders will continuously monitor the welfare of the group. - The leaders will use this to set an appropriate pace. - The leaders will change the route if appropriate. - Suitable breaks will be built into the route to prevent over exertion. - The leaders will ensure access to a first aid kit. - Participants clothing and equipment will be checked before the activity	
Low Light – Injury from Traffic, slips trips and falls	All	- If walking at Night or in Low light conditions High Vis Jackets / vests are to be worn especially when walking along roads - Participants are to have access to a torch to help light the way when walking over rough terrain.	
Traffic on Roads, Logging lorries and Bikes - Injury		- Participants will be briefed to walk single file with leaders spread appropriately throughout the group. - Participants to be briefed on how to communicate approaching traffic to other members - Participants will be briefed on action to take (everyone stepping to the same side of path) if traffic approaches. - Participants to be briefed that cycle traffic can approach quickly and silently. - Routes will be away from main and country roads where possible to avoid motor traffic.	
Farm Animals / Wild Animals – Injury,	All	- Participants will be reminded of the country code - Participants will be told of expected behaviour around animals - Routes will be walked and checked for animals and the route will be adjusted if required.	
Getting Lost – Disorientation, Unknown terrain	All	- All leaders to have map and compass and know how to navigate / map read. - Route will be briefed and route cards handed out before the activity starts. - All leaders to be carrying emergency equipment and mobile phones	

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First Aid	All	At least one leader to hold a current first aid qualification and to have easy access to a first aid kit suitable for the activity.	
Behaviour	All	Behavioural expectations of all persons involved in the activity to be briefed before the activity commences.	

Checked by Line Manager	Paul Woodward AGSL 15 th May 2021	Checked by Executive	Lesley Dingle Group Chair 31 th May 2021
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Version Control

Date	Version	Changed by	Comments
8 th February 2021	1	Tris Cocks	Initial Version
28 th August 2023	1.1	Paul Woodward	Reviewed