

Risk Assessment - 1st Hoveton and Wroxham Sea Scouts

Name of activity, event and location	Outdoor Hikes	Date of Risk Assessment	09.02.25	Name of Person doing this risk assessment	Nigel Pope
		Date of next review	10.02.26		

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?
Hazard - Drop off and Pick up Risk - danger of being knocked over by cars	Everyone	Designate a meeting point away from cars. Ensure all participants and parents are aware of drop off and pick up procedure for hike event.	
Hazard - not knowing who is at event Risk - leaving someone behind/missing person	Young Persons	Leader to take register and record on OSM Leader to undertake regular head count of participants during hike.	
Hazard - Uneven ground - danger Risk - twisted ankle, broken bones, cuts	Everyone	Leader conducted recce of planned hike approximately 2 weeks before event to check for risks (identify any control points requiring extra supervision). Leaders to advise young people of dangers and remind them to be careful when traversing paths and bridges. Leaders to ensure young people do not stand or sit on bridges. Leaders to enforce no running on uneven, wet or muddy terrain. Torches to be used if dark. Suitable footwear including socks to be worn - parents to be advised in advance of meeting. Anyone with unsuitable footwear or socks is not to participate in hike. First aid kit appropriate for conditions to be brought on hike	
Hazard - strangers Risk - abduction	Young Persons	Safety briefing given to all participants. All young people to stay in minimum of pairs. No one to wander off.	

Hazard - getting lost Risk - do not return	Young Persons	Young people instructed to not wander off. Leader at front and Leader at back of hike at all times. Leaders to have whistle and advise young people that when 3 long blasts are blown all are to return to person blowing whistle.	
Hazard – moving motor vehicles Risk – collision risk of personal injury or death	Everyone	Leader conducted recce of planned hike approximately 2 weeks before event to check for risks in particular car parks and road crossings to check for safest passage across. The hike is planned minimising the crossing of roads or need to walk along roads. Leaders to be extra vigilant when hike path is near roads. If hike path involves walking on roads this is to be compliant with the highway code and use designated footpaths or walk on road single file on right facing oncoming traffic. In dusk/dark the hike route to be in street lit areas or torches are to be used as well as reflective clothing to be worn (in particular at front and back of the hike group). Any crossing of roads to be assisted and supervised by leaders/adult volunteers on the hike using designated crossing points where possible. Scouts supervised in car parks and instructed to stay away from roads.	
Hazard - extreme weather Risk - hyperthermia/Sunstroke	Everyone	Correct clothing for weather to be worn. Wet weather gear or warm clothes as appropriate - Parents to be reminded in advance of meeting. Sun cream and hats for hot weather. Sun cream applied to everyone and at regular intervals – consent given by parents before commencement of event. Drinks to be brought with them or arranged by leaders. Scheduled drink breaks throughout hike – increased frequency in hot weather. Shaded areas to be available throughout the hike. Leader monitoring of young members and each other's welfare in hot and sunny weather conditions. Event to be cancelled if weather forecast is severe wet or hot weather.	
Hazard – exhaustion/tiredness Risk – bad temper, lack of participation, discontent,	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 scouts. Parents to advise and leaders to check young people participating are fit	

personal injury		<p>and well enough to endure the hike.</p> <p>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 group doing the hike.</p> <p>Leaders trained to spot signs of over-exertion</p> <p>Leaders to monitor food and water intake and regular snack breaks scheduled to keep energy levels up.</p> <p>Designated rests points to be utilised to prevent exhaustion and tiredness.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Hike to be cut short or cancelled for any persons identified at risk.</p>	
Hazard – Falling Trees Risk – personal injury	Everyone	<p>Leader conducted recce of planned hike approximately 2 weeks before event to check for risks including wooded areas.</p> <p>In the event of high winds, event to be cancelled, or route changed to avoid wooded areas.</p>	
Hazard – Flora and Fauna including ticks Risk – Stings, bites, physical injury such as poisoning and anaphylaxis or infection such as Lyme disease	Everyone	<p>Leader conducted recce of hike approximately 2 weeks before event to check for risks including identifying any potentially hazardous flora, insect nests, and low branches that may cause harm.</p> <p>Safety brief to young members not to touch any harmful plants such as nettles, fungus or berries and not to eat anything foraged from woodland.</p> <p>Hand sanitiser to be brought on hike and used by anyone that comes into contact with potentially hazardous flora.</p> <p>No climbing of trees including toppled trees.</p> <p>Leader and adult supervision throughout the hike.</p> <p>Long sleeves and trousers to be worn if hike is to go through long grass/vegetation areas.</p> <p>Any participants with allergies to carry epi-pen.</p> <p>Insect repellent/cream available for all to use if required – consent given by parents before commencement of event.</p>	
Hazard – Animals Risk – being trampled/personal injury/infection such as Leptospirosis	Everyone	<p>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.</p> <p>The hike is planned minimising the crossing of fields.</p> <p>Alternative routes to be considered or the event is cancelled if not possible.</p> <p>Risks are not to be taken with animals that are unpredictable and have the</p>	

		propensity to cause real harm.	
Hazard – Water such as rivers, streams, ponds or lakes Risk – drowning (death), infections such as Leptospirosis and hypothermia	Everyone	<p>Leader conducted recce of planned hike approximately 2 weeks before event to check for risks including water such as rivers, streams, ponds or lakes.</p> <p>The hike is planned minimising the crossing of water and where necessary ensuring safe passage by bridges or stepping stones that are secure.</p> <p>Leaders to be extra vigilant when hike path is near water.</p> <p>All crossing points to be supervised by adults/leaders to ensure everyone has crossed safely.</p> <p>Crossing to be done in single file and at a steady pace.</p> <p>Young people reminded to stay on paths and not to walk too close to river or stream banks.</p> <p>Leaders to ensure young people do not misbehave near water and remind them of water safety.</p> <p>Everyone is not to walk or sit down on walls of bridges.</p> <p>Everyone to wear suitable footwear.</p> <p>Hand sanitiser to be used if anyone should come into contact with water.</p>	
Hazard – Misbehaviour of young members Risk – personal injury	Young People Leaders	<p>Safety briefing given at the start of hike.</p> <p>Boundaries set from the beginning and closely supervised by leaders and adults.</p> <p>Leaders or adults to intervene in any misbehaviour to prevent escalation or harm to others.</p> <p>Consequences of misbehaviour to be actioned as deemed appropriate by leaders, which can include exclusion from future scouting activities.</p>	
Hazard - Covid 19 Risk - spreading the virus, death	Everyone	All precautions to be carried out as set out in Covid restart risk assessment.	
	Other Safety Measures	<p>Leaders to review risk assessment prior to commencing hike event.</p> <p>Safety briefing by leader in charge of event to all participants at start of hike event</p> <p>Leaders to know local conditions including weather for hike location</p> <p>Leaders and adults to have working phones with sufficient battery power [and power bank]</p> <p>First aid equipment to be available throughout event hike.</p>	

		<p>Leaders to have working knowledge of first aid and in-date first aid training.</p> <p>Ongoing dynamic risk assessments to be made throughout hike by leaders.</p> <p>Clear boundaries set for young members at start of event.</p> <p>Child protection guidelines to be followed at all times.</p> <p>Scouting adult to child ratios to be adhered to at all times.</p> <p>Adequate supervision of young members at all times.</p> <p>Intouch system in place & emergency procedures understood by all leaders and adults participating in hike event.</p>	
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