

Generic Risk Assessment for Evesham Ramblers Group Walks

(Endorsed at Evesham Ramblers Committee Meeting 24/09/2024)

What are the risks or hazards?	What could happen and who could be harmed?	How we manage the risks
Lack of confidence and/or skill	Leaders are stressed and overwhelmed	- New walk leaders complete Ramblers introductory training - Peer support is available from our more experienced leaders - Leaders only lead within their capabilities
	Walkers are exposed to unnecessary risks	
Too many people walking in the group	Leaders are stressed and overwhelmed	- Leaders are aware of Ramblers recommended leader / walker ratios and, where appropriate, appoint a backmarker and/or additional helpers for larger groups - On occasion, when it is desired to limit the numbers attending, a published walk may be flagged as 'booking required.'
	Walkers are exposed to unnecessary risks	
Walkers act recklessly	Walkers put themselves and others at risk	- Evesham Ramblers website (under 'Information for walkers') sets out clear expectations and responsibilities for persons attending walks - Leaders give a walk briefing before setting off, with an overview of the walk and likely hazards to be encountered - Leaders communicate with walkers throughout the walk
	Leaders are stressed and overwhelmed	

What are the risks or hazards?	What could happen and who could be harmed?	How we manage the risks
Weather	Walkers are exposed to extreme cold, heat, or wet	• Leaders check the weather forecast before the walk and, in the event of a particularly poor weather, may cancel the walk. • Where appropriate, leaders may advise walkers what to wear and bring. • Leaders set an appropriate pace and take breaks as needed • Leaders stay alert to changing conditions and, if appropriate, change or shorten the route
Getting lost	The group gets lost	• Where possible, leaders recce the route a week or so in advance (unless it is a walk with which they are already familiar). Occasionally, experienced leaders may plan a route using good local knowledge, guidebooks and maps, without the need for a recce. • Leaders have appropriate navigation skills and carry, or have access to, a mobile phone/GPS device, a walking map of the area and/or a published guide to the walk.
	Walkers are exposed to extreme cold, heat or wet	
	There is a communications blackout	
	Walkers run low on food/drink supplies	
Terrain	Walkers trip or fall, resulting in injury	• Leaders complete training on Preventing & Managing Incidents • When planning a route, leaders check the terrain and note any potentially hazardous bits (e.g. muddy, slippery, or steep sections; rough or difficult paths; awkward steps; broken or awkward stiles etc.) and, where appropriate, arrange for a note to be included in the published walk details. • Leaders make changes during the walk, if needed, in response to the group & the conditions • Leaders offer support and reassurance to nervous walkers • Leaders alert walkers to potential hazards
Unsafe/unstable geographic features or obstacles (e.g., water, tides, rock fall, overhangs, and fallen trees)	Walkers trip or fall, resulting in injury	• Leaders only plan walks which they consider safe for the group to follow. • Leaders make changes to plans, when appropriate, to deal with unexpected features and obstacles • Leaders follow any local warnings or signs and advise walkers to keep away from sheer drops / unstable river banks etc. • Leaders only use bridges or other recognised crossing points to negotiate significant water features
	Walkers get into difficulty and drown	

What are the risks or hazards?	What could happen and who could be harmed?	How we manage the risks
Livestock	Walkers are at risk of injury from livestock	• Leaders check whether livestock (especially horses or cattle) is likely to be met and, if appropriate, arrange for a note to be included in the published walk details • When crossing fields with livestock, leaders encourage the group to keep together, to cross calmly and quietly, and to keep any dogs on a short lead (releasing the dog if charged by cows) • Leaders encourage the group to follow the Countryside Code (England & Wales) and ensure that gates and property are left as they are found
	Property is damaged	
	The wider public are at risk of injury from escaped livestock	
Roads	Walkers are at risk of road traffic accident	• Leaders encourage the group to maintain a single file on any road sections without a footpath/pavement • Leaders plan routes to avoid busy roads where possible. (If busy roads are to be encountered, leaders arrange for a note to be included in the published walk details.) • Leaders check for suitable crossing places and act as a 'lookout' when crossing busy roads
	Other road users are at risk of accident	
Roads (driving)	Road traffic accident puts walkers and other road users at risk of injury	• Walkers are reminded that the drive to/from the walk is often the riskiest part of the day and that drivers should take adequate rests on longer journeys and maintain fluid/blood sugar levels at the end of the day
Losing walkers	Walkers could get left behind/lost	• Leaders know who is on the walk. (All walkers are required to enter their name and contact number onto a Walk Sign in Sheet). • Leaders appoint a backmarker for larger groups. • Leaders conduct regular headcounts and communicate with the group throughout the walk • Leaders set an appropriate pace, and if necessary, make stops to allow people at the back to catch up. • Leaders remind walkers that anyone going ahead of the leader does so at their own risk and that anyone stepping out for a comfort break must tell someone they are doing so.
Accident or medical emergency	Walkers require first aid or medical attention	• Leaders know who is on the walk. (Walkers are asked to confirm that they have their emergency contact details with them, or if not, enter their emergency contact name and number onto the Sign in Sheet). • Leaders encourage walkers to complete and carry an In Case of Emergency (ICE) Card • Leaders complete training on Preventing & Managing Incidents • Leaders ensure their mobile phone is fully charged and know how to contact the emergency services • Leaders carry a first aid kit