

Risk Assessment:	Hikes		Location:	Various
Version	Author	Date	Approval	Date
Original	Rob Harborne (SL)	March 2017		
2020 Update	Rob Harborne (SL)	November 2020	Mark Medler (GSL)	1/11/2020
2024 Update	Toby Roe (AGSL)	April 2024		

COVID Specific Risks

Reference: <https://members.scouts.org.uk/factsheets/FS315078.pdf>

Risk Mitigation

There are five main hazards common with all hikes:

- Congregation at meeting/pick-up points
- Following and/or crossing roads
- Minor injuries due to trips and falls.
- Exposure due to bad weather.
- Becoming lost.

Risk Mitigation

- Most of the risks associated with this activity can be mitigated either by use of common sense or by applying relevant training methods.
- For unsupported hikes, without direct adult supervision, whilst hiking the plan should be highlighted in pre-event comms to parents and consideration given to YP with any SEN's
- Hike routes should ideally be reconnoitred in advance by leaders/adults to familiarise, plan timings and ascertain current conditions. This is particularly important for new or unfamiliar routes or if recent weather conditions might give cause for concern.
- A head count will be used to make sure the YP are all present or in their allotted groups.
- Minimum adult:child ratios will be maintained (e.g. adult/Scout ratio of 12:1 + 1) for the overall event.
- Minor injuries can happen with any activity. If the injured YP can walk back to the carpark then return there by the safest route. If not, the YP will have to make it to the nearest extraction point and taken home by car.
- All YP should dress appropriately for the weather; bring warm layers and waterproofs (jacket and over trousers) and a small backpack so that the walk can continue if the weather turns bad.

Hazard / Risk	Who is at Risk?	Normal Control Measures (Brief description and/or reference to source of information).	Additional Control Measures	Responsibility
Meeting/pick-up points often in car parks or near roads. Risk from traffic.	YP/Leaders/Adults	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain minimum adult:child ratios • Use muster points away from vehicle access / traffic • Keep YP together • Take headcount and register 		Leaders
Roads and traffic – injuries from collisions between vehicles and people.	YP/Leaders/Adults	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoid use of roads where possibly • Choose a route with minimal use of roads without a footpath. • Obey Highway Code. Brief young people on safety around roads and expected behaviour • Walk single file on roads • Identify potentially dangerous points in advance • Leaders to wear hi-vis • All to carry and use torches in darkness • Leaders to manage YP at crossing points 		Leaders
Minor injuries	YP/Leaders/Adults	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Group to carry first aid kit • Vehicle pick-up planned and available for longer hikes • Potential extraction points identified in advance on longer hikes 		Leaders
Weather – rain before and during the hike, hot weather causing heat exhaustion or sun stroke.	YP/Leaders/Adults	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor weather forecast in advance, if heavy rain forecast then consider alternative activity • All attendees to dress appropriately to the conditions • Bring warm layers and waterproofs • Tell everyone to bring a filled water bottle. If it's very hot, plan water stops and refilling if needed • Make sure routes have escape routes or alternatives 		Leaders

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Mistakes when navigating – leading to increased risk of all other hazards. Additional consequences of being lost and exhausted, especially if late or after dark.	YP/Leaders/Adults	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reconnoitre new or unfamiliar routes in advance Make sure routes are suitable for people's navigational skills and physical capabilities. Provide each group with adequate maps, compasses, route instructions, and spares. Make sure there's at least one sufficiently competent navigator in each group (consider back up). Leaders to have mobile phones, number for other leaders and a central contact (e.g. Home Contact) If YP are hiking separately they should have mobile contact and numbers for leaders 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider a GPS location system for YP hiking on their own (e.g. What3Words or GaiaGPS) 	Leaders
Terrain – uneven ground, branches, nettles, animals, livestock, and so on.	YP/Leaders/Adults	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leaders check routes before the hike. Leaders physically check any challenging terrain in advance (or plan an alternative route in case it's too challenging for the group). Advise participants on suitable footwear and check it before the hike Brief young people on safely navigating the terrain, including avoiding brambles, nettles, and so on. Encourage everyone to wear long trousers if concerns over foliage or ticks Leaders monitor livestock and find alternative routes to avoid crossing fields with livestock in 		Leaders
COVID – Risk of infection and/or member becoming symptomatic during event	YP/Leaders/Adults	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review general COVID RA Party to carry green COVID med kit with PPE etc. 		Leader in Charge
Particular Hikes/Routes				
Canal hikes – risk of falling in		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> YP to be briefed to walk in single file on narrower paths Leaders to carry a safety rope 		

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