## Led Walk Risk Assessment

| Walk location |  | **Date** |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |

| Risk assessment carried out by |  |
| --- | --- |

This document acts as **a template only** for your walk. Please use it as a guide to help you identify any hazards and access barriers that may be present for your walk. For those hazards present, please add extra details or amend the existing details in the grey sections to suit your walk.

| **Hazard** | **Who might be harmed** | How is the risk controlled |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Traffic/roads** | All walkers | * Warn walkers in pre-walk talk of the route * Cross at safer places (e.g. zebra crossings) * Keep group together * Leaders to wear hi-viz vests * Know the highway code: [www.gov.uk/highway-code](http://www.gov.uk/highway-code) |
| **Shared use paths (cycle & pedestrian)**  Name of path/s:  Where on route: | All walkers, particularly those with sensory impairments | * Inform group at the beginning of the walk * Keep to one side of the path, keep checking group is not drifting across whole of path * Ask walkers to help warn others of bikes approaching * If crossing a shared use path keep a lookout for people on wheels before crossing |
| **Dogs mess** | All, particularly children | * Warn in pre-walk talk and as necessary on route |
| **Dogs** | All, particularly those fearful of dogs | * Warn in pre-walk talk and as necessary on route * Try to keep nervous walkers away from dogs and give warning to your group if a dog is approaching * If dogs are allowed, they should be kept on a lead |
| **Other people** | All | * If a situation or person appears threatening, move the group on whilst avoiding eye contact * Be considerate of others - try not to block entrance ways (e.g., to shops), pavements and pathways |
| **Unknown fitness and health of walkers** | All – particularly walkers with health condition | * Have at least **two** leaders familiar with the route * Give full and clear information (e.g., terrain, length, etc.) in pre-walk talk * Share any relevant, disclosed health information with other leaders * Be vigilant of walkers whilst walking and be familiar with how to cut the route short (e.g., where bus stops are) * If necessary, arrange for a struggling walker to be picked up by a friend or relative. Or ask a leader, helper or friend to accompany walker back to known location |
| **Unknown group size** | Walks without booking procedure | * Have **at least** one lead and one assistant per 20 walkers * Recruit friends / experienced walk leaders to help – recce the walk with them, share your route map, notes and risk assessment * Have a contingency plan – for example: split into groups, alter route, cancel walk, only take the first so many walkers that turn up, etc |
| **Over-hanging branches** | All, particularly walkers with visual impairment | * Warn in pre-walk talk and as necessary on route, asking walkers to pass on the warning down the walking group |
| **Weather**  Add walk specific details (e.g., very exposed?): | All / those that aren’t dressed appropriately | * At the beginning of the walk, check walkers’ clothing and footwear and advise on suitability * Take spare water and cups if hot * Be aware of places to shelter * Abandon the walk if necessary |
| **Slips, trips and falls**  Where on route is this a hazard: | All walkers, particularly those with balance / mobility and visual impairment | * Check and advise on suitability of walkers’ footwear * Identify hazard in pre-walk talk and as necessary on walk * Help walkers on slippery inclines, narrow paths etc * Abandon the walk if accessibility very bad |
| **Inclines**  Please note specifics: | All / particularly those with heart problems or mobility aids | * Warn in publicity and pre-walk talk * Allow walkers to take inclines at own pace and rest at top * Remind walkers to take and use medication if necessary |
| **Uneven ground**  (e.g. cobbles or setts) | Walkers with visual or mobility impairment | * Warn at the beginning of walk and on route * Note and inform how long stretches are * Assess how to avoid problem areas – detour if necessary |
| **Barriers & obstacles**  (kissing gates, stagger barriers, narrow paths / gaps, high step or kerb) | Walkers with visual or mobility impairment | * Warn at the beginning of walk and on route * Help walker negotiate obstacle or detour |
| **Steps** | Walkers with visual or mobility impairment | * Warn in publicity, in pre-walk talk, and on route (including, how many, how often and handrails or not) * Be aware of how to avoid / what detours are possible |
| **Watercourses** | All | * Warn in pre-walk talk * Ask walkers to keep away from edges without barriers * Bring walkers attention to warning signs and life rings * Help as necessary over streams / watercourses |
| **Stiles / locked gates**  (and missing or broken stiles) | All, particularly frailer walkers or those with mobility needs | * Warn in publicity as well as pre-walk talk * Help walkers over stiles / barriers as necessary * Identify alternative routes |
| **Bridges**  (and missing or broken bridges) | All, particularly | * Identify in walk recce and notify walkers before you set off * Help walkers as necessary over bridges and water course crossings * Identify any alternative routes |
| **Livestock** | All | * If dogs are on the walk, ask owners to keep them on a short lead * Large groups of people can unsettle livestock and so avoiding the animals can be the best strategy * Consider alternative route |
| **Electric fencing** | All | * Inform walkers at start and point out on route |
| **Missing way markers** | All | * Know your route * Take a map and compass |
| **Steep drop** | All | * Know your route * Inform walkers at start and on route if steep drops occur |