

Embercombe Risk Assessment

Drum Stalk

Description of main hazards and hazardous events:

This activity is done in the dark in woodland. The main hazard is uneven ground that may cause slips trips and falls resulting in injury to the skin or eyes. It is possible to break a bone as a result of walking on even ground. Sharp foliage could cause injury to the skin or eyes especially if it is flicked back as people walk through the woods.

Nettles or other plants may irritate the skin. There may be man made objects in the woods that could cause injury to the skin or eyes.

The activity is designed to be outside the comfort zone of the participants. Stress may be caused by the feeling of uncertainty or fear of getting lost. If the skin on the feet is damaged, soil or faeces may get into the skin and cause infection.

To reach the area used for the drum stalk a road must be crossed. The road is a very quiet country back lane but it does carry a national speed limit. There is a risk of serious injury or death if an accident occurs involving a vehicle travelling at speed.

Persons exposed: Employees Volunteers Clients / Public
Contractors Vulnerable groups

Existing controls:

The area used for the drum stalk should be checked in the day time before the activity. Any dangerous trip hazards are removed. The minimum number of staff involved in this activity should be five, but if possible more. All staff involved will be briefed on procedures (see below) **Counting:** The number of participants is counted before leaving the main buildings. This number is checked again before the group leaves the site. The number is checked again when re-entering the site.

Lost children: In the event of losing a child a whistle will be blown and everyone will regroup. **Road crossing:** The group will cross when staff are in position on the road and everyone will cross together.

Participants are asked to remove their footwear for the activity. This encourages slow movement during the activity. A first aid kit is taken with one of the staff. Staff and participants will have torches. There will be a runner to take participants back if needed. Staff will have radios.

Guidelines on ratios* 1/4, max numbers 30

*Ratios may be increased for vulnerable groups

Are there any further controls recommended? No

Summary of Safety Advice

Always check the woods before the activity.
Brief the whole team and the children before the activity.
Count the participants regularly.

Other risk assessments you should read; [General Site](#), [Off-site walk \(Haldon Forest\)](#)

Assessment by: Rob Kendall

Job title: Site Manager

Signed:



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