

Embercombe Risk Assessment

Off-site Walk (Haldon Forest)

Description of main hazards and hazardous events:

Low branches, injury to eyes and face. Trips or slips. Fallen branches, leaf litter, uneven ground. Steep ground. Broken bones. Contact with animal faeces, infection, illness due to poor hygiene. Lymes disease carried by ticks. Woods have poor access for emergency services. No mobile reception. Delay caused by this. Falling branches or trees. Reaction to poisonous plants through contact, consumption or inhalation of spores. Handling wood, cuts or splinters on hands. Infections. Traffic on the road, traffic incident could result in serious injury or death.

Night Walks The above hazards are greatly increased when off-site walks are conducted at night. Moving around the woods at night. Poor light or tiredness cause misjudgement. Hazards hard to spot. Injury, bruising, broken bones. Stress caused by fear of the woods. Getting lost from the group, stress.

Persons exposed: Employees Volunteers Clients / Public
Contractors Vulnerable groups

Existing controls:

The route should be familiar to the facilitators organising the walk. The route should be checked prior to the activity taking place. Facilitators need to be able to navigate this at night. When on minor pathways ensure branches are not flicked back. Weather and ground conditions considered in dynamic risk assessment. Suitable footwear advised. Paths cleared of large trip hazards.

Facilitators should know how many participants are present and check regularly. Emphasis should be on walking slowly. Suitable instruction given to boundary of activities. Staff supervision. Group establishes a call. Facilitators have a first aid kit. A first-aider is present. The staffing levels for the activity should be appropriate. Facilitators should have mobile phones and be aware of where they are so that clear information can be provided to emergency services.

Night Walks

Groups given time to develop their night vision. When walking at night on the road the facilitators should turn on torches if car comes.

Guidelines on ratios* 1/5 (Max 15 in single group)

*Ratios may be increased for vulnerable groups

Are there any further controls recommended?

Summary of Safety Advice

Where possible trip hazards should be removed.
Consider the recent and current weather conditions. Are there extra risks?
Branches, sticks or anything else should not be thrown about in the woods.
Fill out an off-site safety checklist (see below)

Other risk assessments you should read; [General Site](#)

Assessment by: Rob Kendall

Job title: Site Manager

Signed:



Date: 7th June 2013

Review date: 7th June 2014

Off-site Safety Checklist

In an emergency where will you meet the emergency services?

Use grid references, postcodes or road names. There may have to be more than one meeting place for long walks.

How will you contact the emergency services or Embercombe?

Mobile phone reception? Radios?

Has the route been checked before the activity?

Anything to report?

Counting people

Leaving the gate / Embercombe

Number of facilitators

Number of participants

Starting the walk

Number of facilitators

Number of participants

Mid walk

Number of facilitators

Number of participants

End walk

Number of facilitators

Number of participants

Returned to Embercombe

Number of facilitators

Number of participants

Who is the main person holding this activity?