

Risk Assessment for : Hill Walking (Summer Conditions)

Please complete the following assessment prior to visit. Complete the yellow boxes and then edit this risk assessment by deleting and/or amending the contents to suit your activity. The assessment should be emailed to The Group Scout Leader once complete.

All activities in Terrain 1 or Terrain 2 must be under the direct control of, or supervised by, a person holding the appropriate permit. All activities in Terrain Zero must be approved by the relevant Commissioner. Terrain One describes terrain which meets all of the following criteria: is below 800 metres but more than 500 metres above sea level or is more than 30 minutes but less than three hours travelling time from a road which can take an ordinary road-going ambulance or a building which is occupied (such as a farm) or another means of calling help (such as a telephone box) and contains no scrambling and is not a road, or path adjacent to a road, on which you would expect to see traffic. Terrain Two describes terrain which meets all of the following criteria: is over 800 metres above sea level or; lies more than three hours travelling time from a road which can take an ordinary road-going ambulance or a building which is occupied (such as a farm) or another means of calling help (such as a telephone box), or contains an element of scrambling and is not a road, or path adjacent to a road, on which you would expect to see traffic.

For activities in Terrain One and Two:

a. Parties must consist of no more than eight, but no less than four people, except as provided for in Rule 9.32 (d) below.

b. Each party must have a leader holding a permit or a designated party leader.

c. If more than one group is formed the parties must use different routes or, if using the same route, leave a clear time and distance interval between them – so that they do not become mixed.

d. When walking directly to, and off the hills after, a multi pitch climb the party size may be less than four..

e. No leader with a permit to supervise the activity may do so with more than three parties, including their own.

f. When leaders holding permits are checking on the safety of Scout parties or their routes, the party size may be less than four. All the members of such a reduced party must each have the skills and experience required to travel safely in the hills in such circumstances, must follow rules regarding route plans and should plan to spend the minimum of time on their own..

[FS120454](http://www.scoutbase.org.uk/library/hqdocs/facts/pdfs/fs120454.pdf) [FS120409](http://www.scoutbase.org.uk/library/hqdocs/facts/pdfs/fs120409.pdf)

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| **Location:** |  | **Assessor/Leader in charge** |  |
| **Date of assessment:** |  | **Number of participants in activity (adults and young people):** |  |
| **Competence (refer to notes above)** | Please state the name of the leader with the appropriate permit or that commissioner approval has been granted: |  |  |
| **First Aid (a first aider should be appointed who is aware of all medical details, will administer medication and first aid if necessary)** | Please state the name of the leader who will be nominated the first aider: |  |  |

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| **Risk/Hazard** | **Who might be involved** | **Control Measurers** | **Comments/Review/Revision** |
| Uneven terrain, loose rocks | All | * Leader is competent in leading groups in the specific terrain * Leader has recent personal experience of the area and the specific intended route at the same time of year * Leader has matched the route to the capability and experience of the participants and supervisors, pre walking it where necessary and assessing specific hazards eg cliffs and water etc * Leaders have sufficient knowledge and experience of any navigational aids and safety equipment * Leader can interpret weather maps and respond accordingly to changing weather patterns * Leader will take into account: height, distance, complexity of route, prevailing conditions, experience of group, specific hazards of route, equipment available, knowledge of group * A second adult is present with all groups * Supervisors continuously monitor the appropriateness of the walk, the physical and mental condition and abilities of the participants and the suitability of the prevailing conditions * Where participants are allowed to walk ahead or behind the main group, clear boundaries are given with appropriate control and communication maintained * Leader carries appropriate safety equipment including a rope * Each walker has appropriate footwear, clothing and equipment including: windproof/waterproof jacket and trousers, spare socks, woollen sweater, hat, gloves, high factor sun protection, sunglasses, lightweight cotton cap, sealed emergency food, torch (spare batteries and bulb) * No young person to carry a load that exceeds a ¼ of his or her body weight * Only ruck sack type carrier are used – shoulder bags, kit bags etc are unsuitable and inappropriate * The group carries between them: suitable and stocked first aid kit, An emergency shelter to accommodate the whole group, Filled thermos flask or equipment for making a hot drink, whistles, maps and compasses * The route is within limits of the weakest member of the group and no one is allowed to straggle * Strategies for keeping the group together are used e.g moving the weakest to the front * Routes have well defined footpaths * Route cards left at base * Routes have planned time of arrival/return of **two hours** before dusk * Information about pre existing medical conditions/medication is carried and left at base OR with the emergency person in the home area * Leader has planned emergency procedures and communications are arranged with pre programmed numbers * Nominated emergency person in the home area clearly understands what consults emergency, what actions to take and available for the duration * Emergency contact person at base also understand what constitutes an emergency when a group is overdue, what actions to take |  |
| Getting lost | All | * Leader is competent in navigational skills and carried correct equipment * Size of group is appropriate and accompanied by 2 competent adults as a minimum * Regular head counts undertaken * Participants and supervisors are appropriately briefed on conduct * Sufficient medication is carried in case of loss or unintentionally extended trip durations |  |
| Extreme weather conditions (cold, wet, heat and sun) | All | * Daily weather forecasts obtained, on day conditions assessed and plans adjust as necessary * Participants and supervisors are appropriately clothed and equipped as above * Emergency equipment carried as above * Kit lit issued to parents in good time * Kit checked before departure |  |
| Environmental considerations | Environment | * Leaders are sure of right of ways and where there is doubt permission is from the land owners * Participants and supervisors understand their environmental responsibilities and follow the countryside code at all times |  |
| Other - |  |  |  |