

RISK ASSESSMENT

“S. S. WALKS” CHALLENGE EVENTS

Introduction:

We have three S.S. walks which we hold one a year over a period of three years.

- 1- Shillington Shuffle
- 2- Sundon Saunter
- 3- Steppingley Step.

The event safety plan for the S.S. walks identifies the hazards & associated risks relating to the delivery of these events. It sets out the responsibilities of those managing those risks.

Event format:

The SS walks are an event with a choice of 3 distances, namely approximately 12, 17 or 26 miles in a circular route. The event takes place on public rights of way, footpaths & roads starting & finishing at the village hall at Barton-le-Clay (GR 083307 on Landranger 166) on a Sunday in November each year. The event is promoted by the "Beds, Bucks and Northants group of the LDWA". The BBN group have run similar events from this venue for several years. The event is a personal challenge to complete their chosen route in the allotted time. The spectator or supporter audience will be low. The main viewing area will be at the start & the checkpoints.

Event itinerary

On the chosen Sunday in November the car park & hall will be manned from 07.00.

Entrants start between 08.00 & 10.00.

All should aim to finish by 18.30 & the hall will close at 19.00.

Checkpoints will have opening & closing times attributed to them.

Route

Each entrant is given a route description, which will enable him/her to navigate round their chosen route. The major part of each route is on footpaths & bridleways. These are joined up by unavoidable road sections. Some of these road sections have pavements which are remarked on in the route description. Others have grass verges which are also noted. In some places, road crossing are detailed to traffic light/pelican crossings etc. At very busy roads where crossing is required, the route description gives warnings to take extra care. All the routes have been walked by the organisers & checked to the route description. A marshals walk will take place before the main event. Checkpoints will provide drinks & some food i.e. biscuits, cake, sandwiches etc. At the end, a light meal will be served. At each checkpoint at least 1 marshal will have a mobile phone & be aware of the emergency number to ring. They will also know the mobile numbers of marshals at other checkpoints. The emergency number is also printed on each route description. Each checkpoint will also have a first aid kit. The marshals will also record the passage of each entrant. There will be a sweeper covering approximately the last 8 miles of the 26 mile route, who will be aware of the entrants ahead & who should have mobile phone coverage.

Walkers.

We assume that adults who take part in the event are doing so of their own free will. As individuals taking part in a sport, they must accept the risks inherent to the activity they participate in. Walk officials shall be assured that any young person is taking part of their own choice & not having been pressured in any way. However, they will be deemed to be under the guidance of their appointed guardian.

The risks to walkers are mainly environmental being hypothermia, hyperthermia & sunburn. Harm from these causes is minimised by the traditional practise of having frequent checkpoints around the route. Each will offer walkers food, drink, shelter, a chance to rest & an opportunity to retire from the event & be transported back to the HQ if they so wish. Walkers are advised to wear appropriate clothing & carry waterproof clothing to protect them from adverse weather.

Marshals

They are individuals, mostly members of the LDWA, who staff the checkpoints or otherwise assist in management of the event. They are considered to be unpaid employees of the organising committee & therefore subject to the provisions of the Health & Safety at Work Act. 1974.

Marshal's risks are minimised by ensuring that their duties are mainly catering or clerical tasks. They may cook & serve meals & so, depending on the specific menu of the checkpoint, marshals may be at risk from knife cuts, scalding from hot liquids & burns from hot surfaces. However the cooking operations are the familiar ones of a normal domestic kitchen using normal domestic equipment. A first aid kit sufficient to treat the minor injuries shall be provided.

The marshals at the HQ are exposed to additional risks. As the meal at the finish is cooked, the risk is somewhat greater than at checkpoints and their duties, though similar, are more onerous.

Ancillary Assistance.

Drivers of event support vehicles are volunteers & so are not subject to driving time regulations. Communications around the route will be provided by mobile phones.

Landowners.

The main concern is trespass as the route is cross country & follows public rights of way. These are mostly way marked & well equipped with an infra structure such as stiles, bridges & waymarkers that help keep walkers on route. In addition walkers will be provided with a written route description.

Members of the public.

The SS walks are not a spectator sport though supporters drawn from family & friends of walkers may be present at the start, finish & at places around the route. Their numbers will not be sufficient to raise issues of crowd control.

Excluded risks.

These risks are either remote, trivial or have causes outside of our control. Specifically they are:

1. Lightning strikes. The risk in the UK of an individual being struck by lightning is less than 1 in a million with half the incidents involving people indoors & talking on the phone.
2. Blisters & soreness. These are trivial within the context of long distance walking & can be prevented or personally treated by experienced walkers.
3. Heart attacks or SCAs(Sudden Cardiac Arrest). There have been only a few deaths from such incidents on LDWA events & given the serious consequences we recognise that this risk is a major one, but we can do nothing to minimise it & therefore it is excluded from the assessment. However we recognise we have a duty of care.
4. Road Traffic Accidents. Short distances of the route use minor roads & there are a number of road crossings some of which are across major roads. Our marshals have no powers to control traffic neither should they control walkers at road crossings. Crossing a road is a normal experience for all of us & we do so in safety. We will therefore advise entrants to take personal responsibility for so doing & use the same care in crossing roads as they use in every day life.

Checkpoint Risk Assessment

HAZARD	Who is at Risk	Level of Risk	Control Measures	Who is Responsible
In general			Refer to hall's own Risk Assessments	All
Storage cupboards, tables & chairs	All	Low	Doors to be kept closed when access is not required Ensure all equipment is stored, moved or used safely	All
Kitchen safety Food hygiene	All	Low	Observe all hygiene & safety codes Guidance book enclosed with CP equipment	All
Slippery floors especially in kitchen	All	Medium	Regular checks. Spills cleared & dried immediately.	All
Allergies	Individual	Low	Walkers with allergies are responsible for own refreshments In emergency call 999	Individual
First aid	All	Medium	First Aid kit to be kept available for walkers to use In emergency call 999 Record any incidents or accidents	CP Manager
Site comfort	All	Low	Check temperature on arrival & heat if necessary. Check for cleanliness, paper towels, loo rolls etc	CP Manager
Site security	All	Medium	Always have some-one at front door Never be alone in the building especially after dark Ensure vehicles remain locked Ensure a mobile phone is available for use in emergency	All
Unauthorised access by the public	All	Low	Ask the person to leave the premises If threatening or drunk, call 999	CP Manager
Police			The local police will know you are on site If they call in, offer them a cuppa !!	All
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