

ULVERSTON WALKFEST 2021 RISK ASSESSMENT

General Description. The Festival consists of 19 walks, some with an associated interest (Cemetery, historical etc). Walk leaders must be suitably experienced for their role and will be assisted by co-leaders. The programme indicates the level of difficulty of the walk and the website gives guidance on dress, equipment and how to keep safe on the fells.

Assessment Method.

Likelihood of Occurrence (1)	Severity of Outcome (2)
1. Highly unlikely ever to occur.	1. Slight inconvenience.
2. May occur but very rarely.	2. Minor injury requiring first aid.
3. May occur rarely.	3. Medical attention required.
4. May occur from time to time.	4. Major injury leading to hospitalization.
5. Likely to occur often.	5. Fatality or serious injury leading to disability.
Risk (1) x (2)	
1-5 = Low risk – risk controlled.	
6-12 = Medium risk – further precautions required.	
13-25 = High Risk – stop activity, immediate action required.	

Typical Risks.

- Blister, twisted ankle, slip/fall on grass, minor abrasion: Likelihood = 4, Severity = 2, Risk = 8 (Medium).
- Trip over rocks or uneven ground onto hard surface, serious sprain or asthma: Likelihood = 3, Severity = 3, Risk = 9 (Medium).
- Fall leading to broken limb, angina or hypothermia (following extended wait for help): Likelihood = 2, Severity = 4, Risk = 8 (Medium).
- Heart attack or stroke: Likelihood = 1, Severity = 5, Risk = 5 (Low).
- Traffic accident: Likelihood = 1, Severity = 4 or 5, Risk = 4 or 5 (Low).
- Catching Covid19: Likelihood = 3, Severity = 3, Risk 9 (Medium).

Measures to Reduce Risks (to be implemented by walk leaders as appropriate):

- Route checked within a couple of weeks before the Festival, and risk assessment completed considering such hazards as: traffic (including bikes), uneven/wet ground, slopes, dogs, weather, streams to be crossed, and difficult stiles to be climbed.
- Warn walkers of the possible hazards on your walk.
- Keep within your experience, for the prevailing conditions, and turn back if necessary.
- Carry a map and compass, even if familiar with the route, a basic first aid kit, **torch** and fully charged mobile phone.
- On walks graded Moderate or Moderate-plus a survival bag/shelter should be carried and if poor weather is likely walkers' clothing should be assessed at the start. (Consider carrying an extra walking pole to assist someone who lacks confidence on uneven terrain.)
- Keep group together, walk within the limits of all walkers and allow the slowest to dictate the pace. (It is useful to have topics of interest to talk about while you wait for stragglers, to mask the need for the pause and allow for stragglers to get a break.)
- Point out any hazards and help walkers over difficult terrain giving special attention to children, elderly walkers and those clearly lacking confidence.
- Avoid steep slopes, especially wet grass, and cross water at recognised sites.
- If any serious medical condition is suspected (eg angina, asthma) monitor the walker regularly, take breaks and call for help (below) if condition deteriorates.
- If you need help call 999 and ask for Cumbria Police and then Mountain Rescue. Give casualty's location and nature of injury/illness.
Remain where you have a phone signal.
- On roads keep group together, face on-coming traffic, and deploy people to front and rear to warn traffic - wearing high visibility vests.
- **Covid19:** At the start check that no one has symptoms, has tested positive or is within 14 days of start of symptoms. Suggest walkers keep apart at least 1m and warn them when negotiating gates, styles, rests to maintain this. If entering an enclosed space suggest that masks may be appropriate. Consider taking a group bottle of sanitizer.

ADDITIONAL RISKS

WALK	ADDITIONAL RISKS	MITIGATING ACTION
Walks 1, 2, 4, 6, 7 and 10.	No additional risks.	
Walk 3 Oxon Park Rusland Circuit	Low Hay Bridge Nature Reserve board walks – but only after heavy rain. (Low risk – currently negligible.)	Warn to take great care if wet and potentially slippery. Walk in single file in middle of boards.

<p>Walk 5 Dalton Circuit Neil Mclaughlin- cook</p>	<p>Trains. Delays or cancellations. (No risk and bus available)</p> <p>COVID. Risks due to large numbers. (Low risk)</p> <p>Stiles. Some Rickety. Some with brambles growing on them. (Moderate risk)</p> <p>Unfenced quarry edge. (Moderate risk)</p> <p>Crossing railway by foot crossing (Low risk)</p> <p>Crossing Barrow-Dalton road [x2] (Moderate risk)</p> <p>COVID risks inside castle. (Low risk)</p>	<p>Monitor National Rail inquiries about planned engineering work and travel updates on the day. (Neil)</p> <p>Remind all about distancing at start. (Neil) Divide into 2+ groups, keeping other group[s] in sight but distanced. (Neil) Briefing note about historical sites issued to all leaders, to avoid need for all groups to stand together. (Neil)</p> <p>Alert walkers at start of walk. (Neil) Give assistance as necessary. (Neil, Dave & Stephe) Take secateurs and clear stiles. (Neil)</p> <p>Before reaching the stile giving access to the open area, alert walkers to take care (Neil, Dave & Stephe)</p> <p>Warn of danger when approaching crossing; point out that trains come in both directions. (Neil, Dave & Stephe) Advise each group to keep walking well beyond the crossing, to avoid bunching on the crossing itself. (Neil, Dave & Stephe)</p> <p>Warn of danger when approaching road. (Neil, Dave & Stephe) Each group to cross as a group when the road is clear both ways. (Neil, Dave & Stephe)</p> <p>Keep Friends of Dalton Castle [FDC] updated about numbers and likely arrival time, to aid their planning. (Neil) Give overview outside the castle, before walkers enter, about the castle's history, layout and COVID rules. (Neil) One-way system on stairways. (Neil & FDC)</p>
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		Sanitisers available in all rooms. (Neil & FDC) Walkers advised to wear face masks inside. (Neil)
Walk 8 Eskdale John Dennis	Walking next to River. (Low risk) Climbing the Ghyll. (Moderate risk) Those returning by train. (Low risk)	Leaders to warn party to keep away from river bank edge particularly in times of high river flow; the stepping stones at St Catherine's church should not be attempted. Leaders instruct party not to leave path for any reason and to use handrails where provided. Under no circumstances must any member of the party climb on the viewing platform railings. Leaders must check train arrival & departure times to ensure that the footpath is clear of rail traffic during the traverse of the rail side path.
Walk 9 Lowick Common Sheila Bull	Field above Moor House: New fence with no stile. (No risk) Stile over wall with strand of barbed wire across it. (Moderate risk) Several lanes walked. (Low risk)	Divert 400m NW to gate. Pipe insulation and cable ties taken on walk to cover the wire. Use of Hi Viz.
Walk 11 Dunnerdale Stan Aspinall	Road. There is a quarter mile road walk on a minor road at the start of the walk. Packhorse Bridge across the Lickle has no parapets. (Moderate risk) Emerging onto the open fell after Carter Ground there is no clear pathway through the bracken. The slate addit mines into the hillside are interesting but dangerous. Lunch break at the small tarn beneath Stickle Pike and an opportunity for those who want to climb.	Group split into two smaller groups and alerted of the dangers of walking on a narrow road. Hi-vis jackets worn by leader and back marker. Walkers warned of this and to walk in centre. Group joins together and follows leader to the next main contour path. Group led passed them without investigation. Those who want to climb warned of additional risks involved.

	<p>Great Stickle is the next peak and tempting to climb but high bracken and a very steep decent on the other side.</p> <p>A steep descent at the start of the bypass of Great Stickle.</p> <p>The final stage has fields with cows and their calves. (All except packhorse bridge considered Low risk) Broughton Mills Bridge. Currently closed for repair.</p>	<p>We will take the alternative route around Great Stickle.</p> <p>Walkers warned to take great care. Use of poles if they have them.</p> <p>Walkers alerted and any dogs kept on leads.</p> <p>Diversion via next bridge to south. Leader to check on the day to see if bridge safely passable</p>
<p>Walk 12 Furness Iron Colin Pickthall Peter Quiggin</p>	<p>Roads. Short (approx 200 meters) walk along Broughton Rd., at Hurst Green (Low Risk). Crossing busy A590 from Rake Lane to Butts Beck. (Moderate risk).</p> <p>Gates and stiles. A number of difficult gates and stiles, all of which have been inspected and assessed. (Low risk)</p> <p>Wet ground. One or two areas will be muddy if there is rain.</p> <p>The path between Cowran and Whinfield could be very soggy. (Low risk) The path threading the Mouzell pits could be slippery & a bit perilous (Moderate risk).</p>	<p>Shortened on recce. Co-leaders to top and tail single file wearing high viz vests. To cross in 2 or more groups, each side shadowed by high viz vests. Strict advice not to pull or push each other. Great patience is needed.</p> <p>Some diversions may be necessary depending on capability of group. Co-leaders to open, hold open, and fasten.</p> <p>All have been extensively examined - on 6 recent walks Tarn Close will be re-visited the day before the walk and a diversion taken if necessary.</p> <p>A diversion along a good track is available.</p>

	<p>Length and Difficulty. Some walkers may find the going difficult.</p>	<p>The walk runs roughly parallel to the A590 and fairly short walks are readily available to the main bus route, at Swarthmoor, Cross-a-moor, Four Lane ends, Lindal and Melton top. To which walkers wishing to leave the walk could be taken.</p>
<p>Walk 13 Grizedale Sculptures Dave Robson</p>	<p>Cyclists. The forest can get a lot of cyclists both on and off the forest roads. (Low risk)</p> <p>High Wind. Falling branches in high wind and obstacles across paths afterwards. (Medium risk)</p> <p>Water. Walk visits a large tarn, walks by a beck and a very short section goes above a narrow gorge. One of the sculptures is accessible by an awkward (slippy) stream crossing. (Medium risk)</p> <p>Dense Forest. Some sculptures hidden in forest with possibility of getting scratched, eyes poked by branches etc. (Low risk)</p> <p>Forestry Commission Work. Some work is being undertaken in the forest including felling (Low risk)</p>	<p>Walkers informed at the start and told to keep an eye out during the walk and alert one another as appropriate.</p> <p>Walk leader reserves the right to cancel the walk in this situation. Possibility of this included in website programme. Care taken negotiating fallen branches following a storm and local route changed if necessary.</p> <p>Walkers warned generally at start and as each hazard approached. Walk leader carries a throw line.</p> <p>If unduly slippery then sculpture pointed out without crossing stream or all but the more able dissuaded from crossing</p> <p>Walk leader will carry secateurs and judiciously prune to enable a safe passage. All warned at the beginning and as each hazard approached. Some may be advised not to proceed or to do so at their own risk.</p> <p>Walkers warned to be aware of the possibility and to follow any diversions with safe alternative routes used if necessary.</p>
<p>Walk 14 Archaeology of S. Ulverston</p>	<p>Crossing A5087 twice between Dragley Beck and A590 (Medium risk)</p> <p>Walking along the road between Canal Foot and Sandside (Low risk)</p>	<p>Cross at lights-controlled crossing at Lightburn Park and the junction with the A590</p> <p>1st - Bring group together and warn of danger. Guides with hi viz vests at front and rear of group.</p>

	<p>Walking on narrow road between Sandside and Carter Pool (Low risk)</p> <p>Short visit to view Ainslie Pier, across rough shoreline (Low risk)</p>	<p>(The option of using Glaxo Sports ground is dismissed as private land and next to Covid vaccination centre.)</p> <p>1st - Bring group together and warn of danger. Guides with hi viz vests at front and rear of group.</p> <p>Option to miss this section and wait at Canal Foot for anyone with mobility issues. Warn of need to avoid slipping. Miss this section if high tide.</p>
<p>Walk 15 Rusland to High Dam Mick Shaw</p>	<p>Roads. Several used for a few 100m, all very minor and quiet. (Low risk)</p> <p>Stile. There is a narrow slate stile from the field just before Crosslands coming directly onto the road. (Low risk)</p>	<p>Warn walkers and deploy hi viz jacket to front and rear.</p> <p>Leader in high vis to go first and leave a second with high vis to help the party over.</p>
<p>Walk 16 Tree spotting Judy Pickthall</p>	<p>Crossing A590 twice in Ulverston (Medium risk).</p> <p>Walking up Stockbridge Lane (Medium risk).</p>	<p>Bring group together, warn of danger. Post guides with hi-viz at sides of groups and cross as group on green man signal.</p> <p>Walk in single file along the right hand side. Hi-viz guides at back and front.</p>
<p>Walk 17 Black Fell and Tarn Hows. Stephe Cove</p>	<p>Walking 300m on B5285 towards Coniston (Medium risk)</p>	<p>Bring group together and warn of danger.</p> <p>Post guides with hi viz vests front and back of group.</p> <p>Cross as a group when the road is clear both ways.</p> <p>Be aware of stragglers.</p> <p>Walk down the hill facing oncoming traffic.</p>
<p>Walk 18 Coniston Copper Trail John Dennis</p>	<p>Steep drop into Church Beck but walkers should not be near the edge. (Low risk)</p> <p>Mine Working. Tunnel entrance to Old Engine Shaft accessible up to safety</p>	<p>Warn group of steep drop into Church Beck and to keep to path.</p> <p>Leaders to use torches to illuminate uneven tunnel surface. Warn party to take care in the area of all workings and to keep away from the edges of wheel pits, fenced shafts and stopes.</p>

	<p>fence. Other pits in the area. (Moderate risk)</p> <p>The water leat path is narrow, stony and loose in parts with an unprotected drop-off on the left. (Low risk)</p>	<p>Warn group to take extra care along this section.</p>
<p>Walk 19 Sites of East Ulverston. Martin Cooper</p>	<p>Crossing A590 twice. (Medium risk)</p> <p>Climbing Hoad Monument (Low risk)</p> <p>Visiting Furnace – open wheel and excavation pits. (Low risk)</p> <p>Climbing Hoad (Low risk)</p>	<p>1st - Bring group together and warn of danger. Post guides with hi viz vests either side of group. Cross as a group when the road is clear both ways. Be aware of stragglers. 2nd – Cross at roundabout with central reservation, plus above.</p> <p>Make it clear that this is only for those who wish to climb to the top. Confirm no one suffers from vertigo. Oversee movement and be prepared for someone to want to turn back during ascent. Competent persons to lead and bring up rear.</p> <p>Furnace open as part of heritage weekend so will have covered all normal risks but brief group to follow guide’s instructions and keep away from pit edges.</p> <p>Option to miss this section and return direct to Booths. Confirm those going up are fit enough. Take main path up and down and avoid grass slopes. If wet monitor steep path near the top on descent with leaders giving support if needed. Suggest those going to the top wear masks and maintain a safe distance, keep groups small.</p>

