

ULVERSTON WALKFEST 2022 RISK ASSESSMENT

General Description. The Festival consists of 30 walks, some with an associated interest. 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 (especially on Easy walks).
- 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.
- Stiles can present a significant issue and should be mentioned in the description on any Easy or Moderate walks (where walkers may be less mobile). Active help will be needed to ensure the safety of all by someone being on hand to offer assistance if necessary.
- 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 and has not tested negative 2 days running after 5 days from the start of the 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, 10, 18, 19, 27 and 28.	No additional risks.	As above.
Walk 2 Tilberthwaite – Holme Fell John Dennis	<p>Cyclists and farm traffic on several of the RoWs used in this walk, including along metalled road from, and returning to, Tilberthwaite and from Hodge Close to High Oxen Fell. (Low Risk)</p> <p>Steep ascent on loose path from track to Little Langdale up to Hodge Close, especially in wet conditions. (Low Risk)</p> <p>Hodge Close deep quarry. (Medium Risk)</p> <p>Rough ground to Uskdale Gap. (Low Risk)</p> <p>Area of old dam at pond can be difficult to pass if wet. (Low Risk)</p>	<p>The group to be warned to look out for cyclists and farm traffic, overall and at key sections.</p> <p>Group to be warned and assistance to be given if necessary.</p> <p>Attention should be drawn to the obvious danger when viewing the quarry. Members of group should not be permitted to go near to the quarry edge.</p> <p>Accurate navigation is essential in order to follow a safe route. Route reced by both leaders, who both have long term experience of the route.</p> <p>Alternative route reced.</p>
Walk 3 Staveley in Cartmel Circuit Dave Hughes	Some tracks double as mountain bike trails. (Low Risk)	Warn walkers at beginning and again when bikers spotted.
Walk 4 Tree spotting Judy Pickthall	Crossing A590 twice in Ulverston (Medium Risk). Walking up Stockbridge Lane	Bring group together, warn of danger. Post guides with hi-viz at sides of groups and cross as group on green man signal.

	(Low Risk).	Walk in single file along the right hand side. Hi-viz guides at back and front.
<p>Walk 5 - Rusland Moss and Hay Bridge Nature Reserves David Robson</p>	<p>Boardwalks. Some of the boardwalk planks are loose, broken, rotten, unsupported and sloping. In some places the wire mesh on top of the boards is loose causing a trip hazard or missing causing a slip hazard if wet. One section of boardwalk is quite elevated requiring care. (All Medium risk)</p> <p>Terrain. Sections of the walk encounter exposed tree roots which present a slip and trip hazard and low lying branches which could cause head /facial injuries (All Medium risk)</p> <p>There is a footbridge with one open side which represents a fall hazard (Medium risk)</p> <p>There is one stile directly onto a bridge which presents a trip or fall hazard. (Medium risk)</p> <p>Part of the walk goes through a farmyard with its associated hazards (dogs, machinery etc) (Medium risk)</p> <p>Some of the walk is along minor roads (Low risk)</p> <p>Animals. Possible interaction with cattle (Medium risk)</p> <p>There is a large red deer herd in the Rusland Valley (Low risk)</p>	<p>Boardwalks. Bring the group together and warn them of the possible dangers. Recommend people space out so that they can see the potential hazards. Limit the numbers on rotten or broken boards. In some cases, it might be possible to walk alongside the boards. Passing oncoming people will require finding a safe place to step of the boardwalk.</p> <p>Terrain. In each case bring the group together and warn them of the possible dangers. Provide assistance as required</p> <p>Bring the group together and have someone with a high viz vest at the front and rear of the group. Warn people of approaching vehicles.</p> <p>Animals. Proceed with caution and seek alternative route as appropriate.</p> <p>Make people aware that deer are about.</p>

<p>Walk 6 History tour of Duddon around Caw Stephe Cove</p>	<p>Lengthen parts of the walk are not on recognised tracks but are routed across country avoiding rock outcrops. (Moderate risk)</p>	<p>Mentioned in programme of walks. Walkers warned at start and monitored throughout. Special care given to any walker needing assistance. 3rd (female) leader included in the team. Spare walking poles available.</p>
<p>Walk 7 Archaeology of S. Ulverston Andrew Hudson</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>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>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. (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 8 Silverdale – Arnside Simon Hughes</p>	<p>Road Walking – One section of Road Walking on fairly busy road with no verges and blind corners (half a mile). (Low risk)</p> <p>Beach walking – Rock hopping – slightly more difficult terrain for a short section – should not present any problems if time taken but if wet could be an issue. (Low risk)</p>	<p>Highlight at start of the walk and to walk in single file with a back marker – leader and back marker in high vis vests.</p> <p>Can't be avoided but highlight to take additional care at beginning of walk and again at this section.</p>
<p>Walk 9 Coniston Old Man</p>	<p>Road. 200m along A593 from carpark then cross to minor road (advertised start point) both starting and finishing walk.</p>	<p>On arrival: Walk in single file along the right hand side, with hi-viz guides at back and front. Warn to only cross when safe. Visibility is good. On return - warn to only cross when safe. Visibility is very good.</p>

Peter Quiggin	(Moderate risk) Rocky Sections. On ascent, two short rocky sections and one steep with loose stones. On descent, one steep bit with loose stones. (Moderate risk)	Warn all to be careful when ascending and, in particular, when descending. Help any walkers if required due to confidence or balance issues.
Walk 11 Coniston Copper Trail John Dennis	Steep drop into Church Beck but walkers should not be near the edge. (Low risk) Mine Working. Tunnel entrance to Old Engine Shaft accessible up to safety fence. Other pits in the area. (Moderate risk) The water leat path is narrow, stony and loose in parts with an unprotected drop-off on the left. (Low risk)	Warn group of steep drop into Church Beck and to keep to path. 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. Warn group to take extra care along this section.
Walk 12 Dalton Circuit Neil Mclaughlin-cook	Stiles. Some Rickety. Some with brambles growing on them. (Moderate risk) Unfenced quarry edge. (Moderate risk) Crossing railway by foot crossing (Low risk) Crossing Barrow-Dalton road [x2] (Moderate risk)	Alert walkers at start of walk. Give assistance as necessary. Take secateurs and clear stiles. Before reaching the stile giving access to the open area, alert walkers to take care Warn of danger when approaching crossing; point out that trains come in both directions. Advise each group to keep walking well beyond the crossing, to avoid bunching on the crossing itself. Warn of danger when approaching road. Each group to cross as a group when the road is clear both ways.

<p>Walk 13 Broughton Circuit Stan Aspinall</p>	<p>The walk criss-crosses the Town on some unpaved roads but traffic will be light and relatively slow moving. (Low risk)</p>	<p>Numbers have been kept to a maximum of 12 (rather than 20). Leaders will wear hi viz jackets and cover all the road sections. Walkers will be warned to take additional care at the start of the walk and before any road sections.</p>
<p>Walk 14 Hawkshead – latterbarrow – Wray Castle Sheila Bull</p>	<p>Rocky and therefore uneven ground on ascent and descent of Latterbarrow needs extra care. (Low risk) Section of narrow track is flanked by a steep grassy slope, near Outgate village. (Low risk) On one path downed trees have been cleared leaving it strewn with branches which could be a trip hazard. (Low Risk)</p>	<p>Walkers warned before they start on each section. Walkers will be advised of this and we'll proceed slowly and carefully. Walkers warned before this section.</p>
<p>Walk 15 Great Burney and beyond Neil Mclaughlin- cook</p>	<p>Steep descent from Blawith Knott. [Moderate Risk] Building work at Kiln Bank (Low Risk) Herd of wild horses on Heathwaite Fell. (Low Risk) Narrow fell-side path back to cars. (Low Risk)</p>	<p>Alert walkers to take care. Alert walkers to take care. Alert walkers, and ensure any dogs are on tight leads. Alert walkers to take care.</p>
<p>Walk 16 Sites of East Ulverston. Martin Cooper</p>	<p>Crossing A590 twice. (Medium risk) Climbing Hoad Monument (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. 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.</p>

	<p>Visiting Furnace – open wheel and excavation pits. (Low risk)</p> <p>Climbing Hoad (Low risk)</p>	<p>Competent persons to lead and bring up rear. Suggest those going to the top wear masks and maintain a safe distance.</p> <p>Walk leader member of Furnace Team, so will cover all normal risks Group briefed 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. Offer alternative back route down with gentle descent.</p>
<p>Walk 17 Grange – Hampsfell Christine Quiggin</p>	<p>Crossing the road in Grange at the roundabout near the station, at both the start and end of the walk. There's an island in the middle and traffic has to slow there anyway. (Low risk)</p>	<p>Walkers warned and crossed as a group when clear.</p>
<p>Walk 20 Bigland – Seatle Circuit Neil Mclaughlin- cook</p>	<p>Low likelihood that landowner might close access to the planned mid-morning break spot, due to shooting game birds. [Low Risk]</p> <p>Awkward stile at Cark Hall Allotment [Low Risk]</p> <p>Right of way blocked in several places due to fallen trees. [Moderate Risk]</p> <p>Two herds of cattle with calves [Moderate risk]</p>	<p>Choose recced alternative spot, with views that are almost as good!</p> <p>Give assistance as necessary.</p> <p>Follow recced alternative routes, and alert walkers to take care.</p> <p>Alert walkers, ensure any dogs are on leads, and, if necessary, select an alternative, recced, lunch spot.</p> <p>Alert walkers to take care.</p>

	Very short, steep-ish descent to High Brow Edge. [Low Risk]	
Walk 21 Lingmoor Fell John Wealthall	<p>Some road work at the start, in Little Langdale and at finish. (Low risk).</p> <p>Short scramble on Lingmoor. (Medium Risk)</p> <p>Cathedral Cave. Rear tunnel has roof gradually getting lower than average walkers head height and is dark. Short scramble from back of cave to upper chamber. Open pond in main chamber (well lit) (Medium risk)</p>	<p>AI warned at start. Walking in single file with leaders wearing Hi Viz front and rear.</p> <p>All advise at scene and alternative route available for any walkers uncomfortable with terrain.</p> <p>Walkers advised of all risks and entry to either chamber optional. If back tunnel used walkers again warned of head height and equipped with torches and guided. Assistance given on short scramble, both from above and below.</p>
Walk 22 Ulverston – Broughton Beck Circuit Martin Cooper	<p>Roads. Approaching Broughton Beck the walk has to go along the B5281 for about 100m. Plus another section of 100m on return to Ulverston from Flan Farm. (Low risk)</p> <p>Animals. There may be cows with calves at Mansriggs Farm (S of Hall). On recce they were docile. (Low risk)</p>	<p>The route has been changed to go N and then E into Broughton Beck as the road is wider and shorter this way. Walkers warned and to keep in single file, and walkers in hi viz jackets deployed to front and rear.</p> <p>Warn any walkers with dogs to release them if cattle are agitated and in anyway threatening.</p>
Walk 23 Ulverston to Marton Circuit Sheila Bull	A difficult stile at Cowran.	Walkers helped over with guides both sides of the stile.
Walk 24 Rusland to High Dam Mick Shaw	<p>Roads. Several used for a few 100m, all very minor and quiet. (Low risk)</p> <p>Stiles. 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>Warning all at that location.</p>

	High stile at Rusland Heights but with a wooden hand rail across top. (Low risk)	Position helpers both side of wall to guide walkers over.
Walk 25 Plumpton Wildlife Jane Carson	Stile. There is a moderately difficult stile. (Low Risk) Top of Beach. The walks goes along the line of high tide between Plumpton and Canal Foot which soon after high tide is wet and slippery over an extended area of flat stones. (Medium Risk) Cattle in Field.	Assist walkers over it. Walkers warned at start and at the site and those lacking in confidence or with mobility issues helped across the stones. For future note when high tide as risk greater the nearer to high tide and before stones dry out. Advance warning and instructions to dog owners to control their dogs unless cows agitated by them when they should be let off the lead.
Walk 26 Monk Coniston – Tarn Hows Martin Cooper	Road section – 500m from Yewdale up to Tarn Hows – one way road facing the traffic. (Low Risk) Crossing Coniston- Hawkshead Road twice. (Low Risk)	Verbal warning to all walkers. Walkers to walk in single file on left. Co-leader to walk well ahead of the group with High Vis jacket. Leader to walk at front of the group and warn of any oncoming traffic. Verbal warning, crossing controlled by both leaders wearing hi Viz jackets.
Walk 29 Blawith Beacon Lindsay Harrison	Road leaving/returning to car park. (Low Risk) Stream crossing at Mere Beck GR 27479193. Unlikely to be problem as no rain forecast and water levels low. (Low Risk) Descent from Beacon can be slippery if wet with risk of slips & trips. (Low Risks)	Verbal warning and marshal walkers along the roadway and across the junction. Be prepared to move up stream to an alternative crossing place. Warn to be careful and lead down a route avoiding any wet grass from standing water, or if it's been raining.
Walk 30 Harter Fell John Wealthall	Wet ground from Grassguards to Forrest Track. (Low risk) Grassy descent from summit can be slippery if wet. (Medium risk) ,	Ensure correct footwear and advise. All warned and extra walking poles taken for anyone lacking confidence.