

Mendip Ramblers, group walks risk assessment

Use this risk assessment to help you understand the risks and any steps you need to take to stay safe before leading a group walk. Please complete a copy for every walk, and keep this for 1 year after the date of the walk.



Walk Leader		Date of walk	
Ramblers group / scheme name	Mendip	Date of risk assessment	
		Date of recce	

Possible hazards	Who might be harmed and how?	Ways to control the risk	Action Taken
Transmission of COVID	All. Catching Covid	Remind all re suitable social distancing. Take a register for follow-up if required.	
Weather	All. Risk of injury, being stranded	Look at weather forecast before the walk, and possibly adjust accordingly	
Equipment	All. Risk of injury, being stranded	Visually check that all walkers have equipment that appears suitable for the walk	
Road Crossings & Walkings	All. Collisions	Consider road crossings and walkings, and discuss with walkers if they cannot be avoided	
Livestock	All. Risk of injury	Deal with according to each individual situation. Follow the Country Code	
Other Hazards	All	Discuss on the day	

Possible hazards	Who might be harmed and how?	Ways to control the risk	Action taken? (click on the box to tick)

If you have any questions about **Ramblers group walks**, please get in touch: volunteersupport@ramblers.zendesk.com

How to carry out a risk assessment

This template is a tool to help you plan and lead Ramblers group walks safely. You must do a risk assessment for each walk.

- Use the template to assess whether your Ramblers group walk is safe to go ahead.
- We've included suggestions for the ways to control the risks – **you do not need to tick every box**. The important thing is to identify the potential hazards and note the actions you will take to reduce the risk.
- It's important to carry out a risk assessment **before** the walk takes place. You should start filling it out when planning your walk, and update it with any extra hazards that you notice on your recce.
- Think about the different types of hazards and risks. We've included some common examples, but think carefully about your own walk in case anything needs adding.

Examples of other risks might include:

- Flooded paths, after heavy rain
- Incoming tide for coastal routes
- Unexploded ordnance (if walking on a right of way across a military site)

This isn't an exhaustive list, so think carefully about any specific risks you may encounter on your walk.

- Next, consider the steps you can take to minimise the risk. Remember that this may sometimes mean changing your original plan. For example:
 - I will recce the route again to check whether the paths are flooded, and plan an alternative if necessary
 - I will check the local tide times and adjust the walk start time
 - I will read the local warning signs on my recce and advise walkers about the risks in my welcome briefing
- If you're not sure what to do to reduce the risk, [check our website for advice](#), or contact us at volunteersupport@ramblers.zendesk.com

Your volunteering & COVID-19

Due to COVID-19, there are extra steps we need to take to organise and lead group walks safely. Please visit the [Ramblers website](#) for the latest updates and guidance.

It's **essential** for all volunteers to consider the following questions, when deciding whether to take part in Ramblers activities:

Do you (or does someone else from your household) have COVID-19 symptoms?	<i>If so, you should self-isolate in line with government guidance.</i> <i>You must not take part in Ramblers activities during this time.</i> <i>Symptoms include a high temperature, a new continuous cough and the loss, or a change to your sense of smell or taste. Find out more about COVID-19, and what you should do if you have symptoms on the NHS website in England, Wales or Scotland.</i>
Are you 'clinically vulnerable'?	<i>If you (or someone you live with) are at higher risk of getting seriously ill from coronavirus, you should take extra care to minimise contact with others from outside your household.</i> <i>Taking part in a Ramblers activity may put you and those around you at higher risk. It may not be the right decision at this time.</i> <i>Remember – everyone over 70, and those with certain underlying health conditions are considered to be 'clinically vulnerable'. You can find more information from the NHS in England, Wales or Scotland.</i>
Do you want to volunteer, and do you feel safe and comfortable doing so?	<i>Volunteering is a personal choice. There will never be any obligation or pressure to volunteer or take part if you don't want to, or are not able to at this time.</i> <i>There are lots of ways to get involved from home too – get in touch to find out more: volunteersupport@ramblers.zendesk.com</i>