# Led Walk Risk Assessment - template

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| Walk location |  | **Date** |  |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Assessment carried out by |  |

Identify which hazards and access barriers are present for your walk by ticking or crossing through the list of hazards/barriers in the white column. For those ticked, add extra details where useful and then read the corresponding grey sections.

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| **Hazard** | **Who might be harmed** | How is the risk controlled |
| **Traffic/roads** | All walkers | * Warn walkers in pre-walk talk
* Cross at safer places (e.g. zebra crossings)
* Keep group together
* Wear aluminous tabards
* Know the highway code: **www.gov.uk/highway-code**
 |
| **Shared use paths (cycle & pedestrian)**Name of path/s:Where on route: | All walkers, particularly those with sensory impairments | * Inform group at the beginning of the walk
* If walking up / down, keep to one side of the path, keep checking group is not drifting across whole of path
* Ask walkers to help warn others of bikes approaching
* If crossing a shared use path keep a look out for people on wheels before crossing
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| **Dogs mess** | All, particularly children | * Warn in pre-walk talk and as necessary on route
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| **Dogs**  | All, particularly those fearful of dogs | * Warn in pre-walk talk and as necessary on route
* Try to keep nervous walkers away from dogs and give warning to your group if a dog is approaching
* If dogs are allowed they should be kept on a lead
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| **Other people** | All | * If a situation or person appears threatening, move the group on whilst avoiding eye contact
* Have a charged mobile phone in your bag
* Be considerate of others - try not to block entrance ways (e.g. to shops), pavements and pathways
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| **Unknown fitness and health of walkers** | All – particularly walkers with health condition | * Have at least **two** leaders familiar with the route
* Give full and clear information (e.g. terrain, length, etc.) in pre-walk talk
* Share any relevant, disclosed health information with other leaders
* Be vigilant of walkers whilst walking and be familiar with how to cut the route short (e.g. where bus stops are)
* If necessary, arrange for a struggling walker to be picked up by a friend or relative. Or ask a leader, helper or friend to accompany walker back to known location
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| **Unknown group size** | Walks without booking procedure  | * Have **at least** one lead and one assistant per 20 walkers
* Recruit friends / experienced walk leaders to help – recce the walk with them, share your route map, notes and risk assessment
* Have a contingency plan – for example: split into groups, alter route, cancel walk, only take the first so many walkers that turn up, etc
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| **Over-hanging branches** | All, particularly walkers with visual impairment  | * Warn in pre-walk talk and as necessary on route, asking walkers to pass on the warning down the walking group
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| **Weather**Add walk specific details (e.g. very exposed?): | All / those that aren’t dressed appropriately  | * At the beginning of the walk, check walkers’ clothing and footwear and advise on suitability
* Take spare water and cups if hot
* Be aware of places to shelter
* Abandon walk if necessary
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| **Slips, trips and falls**Where on route is this a hazard: | All walkers, particularly those with balance / mobility and visual impairment  | * Check and advise on suitability of walkers’ footwear
* Identify hazard in pre-walk talk and as necessary on walk
* Help walkers on slippy inclines, narrow paths etc
* Abandon walk if accessibility very bad
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| **Inclines** Please note specifics: | All / particularly those with heart problems or mobility aids | * Warn in publicity and pre-walk talk
* Allow walkers to take inclines at own pace and rest at top
* Remind walkers to take and use medication if necessary
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| **Uneven ground**(e.g. cobbles or setts) | Walkers with visual or mobility impairment | * Warn at the beginning of walk and on route
* Note and inform how long stretches are
* Assess how to avoid problem areas – detour if necessary
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| **Barriers & obstacles**(kissing gates, stagger barriers, narrow paths / gaps, high step or kerb) | Walkers with visual or mobility impairment | * Warn at the beginning of walk and on route
* Help walker negotiate obstacle or detour
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| **Steps** | Walkers with visual or mobility impairment | * Warn in publicity, in pre-walk talk, and on route (including, how many, how often and hand rails or not)
* Be aware of how to avoid / what detours are possible
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| **Watercourses** | All | * Warn in pre-walk talk
* Ask walkers to keep away from edges without barriers
* Bring walkers attention to warning signs and life rings
* Help as necessary over streams / watercourses
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| **Stiles / locked gates**(and missing or broken stiles) | All, particularly less fit walkers or those with mobility issues | * Warn in publicity as well as pre-walk talk
* Help walkers over stiles / barriers as necessary
* Identify alternative routes
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| **Bridges** (and missing or broken bridges) | All, particularly less fit walkers or those with mobility restrictions | * Identify in walk recce and notify walkers before set off
* Help walkers as necessary over bridges and water course crossings
* Identify any alternative routes
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| **Livestock** | All | * If dogs are on the walk, ask owners to keep them on a short lead
* Large groups of people can unsettle livestock and so avoiding the animals can be the best strategy
* Consider alternative route
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| **Electric fencing** | All | * Inform walkers at start and point out on route
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| **Missing way markers** | All | * Know your route
* Take a map and compass
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| **Steep drop** | All | * Know your route
* Inform walkers at start and on route if steep drops occur
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