

Bollington Photographic Group - Risk Assessment for Photo Walks

Use this risk assessment as a starting point for your specific photo walk. If necessary, make changes if required.

There is no requirement to document actions prior to the walk.

Possible risks or hazards	What could happen and who could be harmed?	How to manage the risks
Lack of confidence and /or skill	Walkers are exposed to unnecessary risks	• Walkers must be informed they join the walk at their own risk • Leader only leads within their capabilities
Too many people walking in the group	Walkers are exposed to unnecessary risks	• Identify additional helpers (e.g. walk assistant or back marker for large groups) • Advertise any limits on group size (and booking information, if needed)
Walkers act recklessly	Walkers put themselves and others at risk	• Share information with walkers in advance to establish clear expectations and responsibilities • Give a walk briefing before setting off, to share your plan and expectations • Communicate with the walkers throughout the walk
Weather	Walkers are exposed to extreme cold, heat, or wet	• Check the weather before the walk • Let people know what to wear and what to bring • Make contingency plans • Stay alert to changing conditions and adjust plans accordingly
Getting lost	Walkers get lost Walkers are exposed to extreme heat, cold or wet There is a communication blackout	• Where possible recce the route in advance - or carefully plan with good local knowledge • Leader is familiar with the route and contingency plans in case changes are needed • Know the hours of dusk and darkness & plan accordingly

Possible risks or hazards	What could happen and who could be harmed?	How to manage the risks
Terrain	Walkers trip or fall resulting in injury	• Check for muddy/slippery/steep sections when planning • Advise walkers of terrain and suitable footwear in advance • Make contingency plans, to draw on if needed in response to the group and conditions • Adjust plans on the walk if needed
Unsafe/unstable geographic features or obstacles	Walkers trip or fall resulting in injury	• Check paths are suitable for a group to use safely and make changes if necessary • Make contingency to deal with unexpected features and obstacles
Livestock	Walkers are at risk of injury from livestock Property is damaged	• Cross fields with livestock calmly and quietly, keeping the group together and any dogs on a short lead (releasing the dog if charged by cows) • Follow the Country Code • Leave gates and property as you find them
Roads	Walkers are at risk of road traffic accident	• Maintain single file on any road section without footpath/pavement • Plan route to avoid busy roads if possible • Check for suitable crossing places
Losing walkers	Walkers could get left behind/lost	• Leader knows who is on the walk • Regular headcounts and communication with the group • Appoint a backmarker (if required) • Communicate with group throughout the walk
Accident or medical emergency	Walker requires first aid or medical attention	• Know how to contact emergency services • Ensure mobile phone is fully charged • Carry a first aid kit

Date: 20 August 2025