# Led Walk Risk Assessment - template

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

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| --- | --- |
| 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 |
| **Dogs mess** | All, particularly children | * Warn in pre-walk talk and as necessary on route |
| **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 |
| **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 |
| **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 |
| **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 |
| **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 |
| **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 |
| **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 |
| **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 |
| **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 |
| **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 |
| **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 |
| **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 |
| **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 |
| **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 |
| **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 |
| **Electric fencing** | All | * Inform walkers at start and point out on route |
| **Missing way markers** | All | * Know your route * Take a map and compass |
| **Steep drop** | All | * Know your route * Inform walkers at start and on route if steep drops occur |