

Creepy Valley Adventure Centre – Walking Risk Assessment

Risk Assessment for: Nature walks and walking	Assessor(s): Alex Dodds	Date: 06/01/2024
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Overview of activity/ location/ equipment/ conditions assessed:	Walking participants during a nature walk activity at the Centre, or from one off-site location to another.
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	Generic or specific assessment:	Specific		
Serial	Hazard(s) identified	Persons affected	Existing Controls	Additional Controls
1	Induction/ Safety Brief	All staff and public	All staff and public must attend a safety brief prior to embarking on a walk.	
2	Clothing	All staff and public	Participants should be made aware of “fashion” garments that are not suitable for the activity. All participants should be assessed for appropriate clothing prior to embarking on the walk e.g. suitable footwear, waterproof jackets, hats, gloves, trousers/jeans, etc.	Instructors should advise participants prior to the activity on what is appropriate attire.
3	Weather	All staff and public	Instructors must take into account the forecasted weather conditions before deciding whether the walk can go ahead. Appropriate clothing must be worn for the weather conditions on the day, e.g. waterproof jacket in the wet, sun cream and sun hat in the sun	
4	Animals	All staff and public	Care should be taken when around animals, particularly if they are suckling their young, as they could be encouraged to charge or become distressed. Animals showing aggression or appearing to be nervous should be avoided at all times.	Participants should be advised by instructors not to approach any animals they come across in case they are aggressive or volatile.

			<p>Participants should be aware of handling or touching animals in case of contracting infectious diseases and illnesses, especially gastro enteritis, salmonella, leptospirosis or cryptosporidium.</p> <p>Pregnant women should avoid contact with animals.</p>	
5	First aid and medical requirements	All staff and public	<p>Lead supervising staff have received first aid training. The Centre Manager or Lead Instructor has a valid first aid award or has received specific training as an Appointed Person.</p> <p>First aid kits are available in the Tower and the Cabin. An accident reporting record is kept by the Centre Manager.</p> <p>Participants with additional medical requirements such as asthma, inhalers, diabetes etc should make themselves known to supervising staff so that appropriate measures may be taken to ensure the availability of personal medications if required. A compact first aid kit should be carried by an instructor at all times.</p>	<p>It may be impractical for participants to carry personal medications during activity. All personal medications should be carried by an instructor if requested by the participant.</p> <p>The activity may be stopped if personal medications are required.</p>
6	Environment	All staff and public	<p>All participants should be told not to discard any litter during the course of the activity. They should keep it on their person until back at the Centre, or in a location where it can be properly disposed of.</p> <p>No flora or fauna should be removed unless with the express permission of the landowner.</p> <p>Wilful damage to property and/or the environment should be activity discouraged and enforced by the instructors.</p>	<p>Instructors should brief the participants on the principles of Leave No Trace.</p> <p>Instructors should check that all participants have taken their litter with them prior to moving on.</p>
7	Terrain	All staff and	Instructors should ensure that the terrain is	Instructors should assess the terrain

		public	<p>suitable for the abilities and fitness of the group, and an alternative route is to be selected if necessary.</p> <p>Consideration should be given to use locally recognised nature walks and trails (Instructors should seek local advice to decide on the most suitable terrain to be covered).</p> <p>All participants should be briefed about the potential hazards, constraints and requirements associated with the selected terrain.</p> <p>Extra care should be taken while crossing streams and waterlogged ground, as these areas can become very slippery.</p>	in relation to the dynamic of the group prior to the activity commencing.
8	Communications	All staff and public	<p>The lead instructor should carry a fully charged mobile telephone with the appropriate emergency contacts saved on it at all times.</p> <p>A pre-arranged rendezvous point should be established before the activity begins in case any members of the group get separated or lost. This could be a local landmark, building, point of interest, or they can remain static if lost in an open space.</p> <p>Emergency contact details for each participant should be carried by the lead instructor at all times.</p>	Instructors assisting the lead instructor should also carry a mobile telephone with the appropriate emergency contact details.
9	Encroachment	All staff and public	<p>Instructors should try to prevent the walk involving walking on private land and gardens.</p> <p>The instructors must ensure that gates, stiles, and cattle grids are left in the same condition they were found in.</p>	Instructors should lead participants on public pathways only, unless it is absolutely necessary to access private land.
10	Behaviour	All staff and public	All participants must be briefed on the appropriate code of practice prior to the	Instructors should continue to remind participants of the expected

			activity starting. The consumption of alcohol, or any un-prescribed drug or substance is strictly prohibited. No participants should ride on or access derelict machinery or equipment. Noise pollution should be kept to a minimum.	standards of behaviour throughout the activity.
11	Injury due to ground and/ or weather conditions	All staff and public	All staff and public are to wear suitable and supportive footwear for use during outdoor activities. The activity may go ahead in most conditions. Rain and high winds above Force 7 may stop the activity. Lightning storms will stop ALL activities. Participants are made aware of the implications when conditions are icy, windy or wet and asked to move slower and with more care.	A dynamic risk assessment is made before and during sessions. Participants are briefed on weather conditions as required. The activity can be adjusted as conditions dictate i.e. an alternative route. Activity will be stopped if necessary. Participants are allowed to reschedule activity if the forecast is for very inclement weather or high winds.
12	Unwanted attention from members of the public	All staff and public	Participants should be briefed not to speak to strangers. If a member of the public attempts to make contact with a participant, the lead instructor must intervene. It may become necessary to contact the Police.	
13	Supervision	All staff and public	The lead instructor has the overall responsibility at all times. Instructors should assess the age, maturity and fitness of the participants before deciding whether all participants will be involved in the activity. All instructors must be fully aware of any medical or physical conditions that the participants have. The instructor ratios should be complied with at all times. The recommended ratio is 1 instructor to 8 children, no more than 1 to	The instructor-to-participant ratios may need to be reviewed if there are any participants with SEN or behavioural problems.

			10 (legal maximum)	
14	Food and drink	All staff and public	Instructors should ensure that all participants have regular access to drinks to reduce the risk of dehydration throughout the activity. It may become necessary to take a short break so that participants can take on nourishment and drink. The lead instructor should establish these breaks at regular intervals.	Instructors should be aware of any dietary requirements of the participants prior to the activity commencing. Spare food and drink should be carried by the instructors should any participants require additional refreshment.
15	Walking on the road	All staff and public	When walking along country lanes, dimly lit roads, and narrow lanes, all participants should walk in single file towards oncoming traffic. High visibility jackets/vests should be worn to warn vehicle drivers that pedestrians are using the road if they are available. The instructors at the front and back on the group should wear a reflective jacket. Torches are to be carried if walkers are to return to base in hours of darkness or dull light conditions.	An Instructor should be leading the group, and another at the tail of the group to ensure that all participants remain on course.

Date of review:	Serial amended:	Reviewed by:	Date of review:	Serial amended:	Reviewed by:
Aug 14	N/A	Corbett	Feb 19	General Review	Colin
Aug 15	4, 10	Corbett	Jan 2020	General Review	Colin
May 16	General Review	Robinson	Jan 2021	Review	Girdwood
May 17	General Review	Wade	Jan 2022	Review	Girdwood
April 18	5	Colin	Jan 2023	Review. 13.	Girdwood