



Risk assessment

	Beaver Trail & Tree Trail Bowley International Scout Centre	Date of risk assessment	5/12/2024	Completed by	Chris Harrop
		Date of next review	5/12/2026	Authorised by	Chris Taylor

What could go wrong? What hazard have you identified? What are the risks from it?	Who is at risk?	What are you going to do about it? How are the risks already controlled? What extra controls are needed? How will they be communicated to Employees and adults and remain inclusive to all needs?	Review & revise What has changed that needs to be thought about and controlled?
A hazard is something that may cause harm or damage. The risk is the harm that may occur from the hazard.	For example: Employees, adult volunteers, visitors	Controls are ways of making the activity safer by removing or reducing the risk. For example, you may use a different piece of equipment or you might change the way you do the activity.	Keep checking throughout the activity in case you need to change what you're doing or even stop the activity. This is a great place to add comments which will be used as part of the review.
Hazard: Site boundaries Risk: Risk of young people leaving site	Employees Adult volunteers Young people Visitors	All groups advised to implement adequate control of their young people, to explain boundaries and prevent travel beyond these without permission or supervision.	
Hazard: Moving water - River Calder. Risk: Drowning, injury	Employees Adult volunteers Young people Visitors	The river runs outside of the site boundary but is accessible via public footpaths. Leaders need to ensure adequate control of their young people and prevent travel outside of the site perimeter without permission or supervision.	
Hazard: Danger of drowning Risk: Drowning, injury	Employees Adult volunteers Young people Visitors	We have a small pond in the Lodge field. There is a fence all the way around it, with a locked gate for access. Using the pond is strictly forbidden unless as a part of a water activity that has been booked as part of your visit. Groups to advise young people that this area is out of bounds	
Hazard: Open running water (site ditches and water courses)	Employees Adult volunteers	Individual briefings to ensure awareness of hazard.	

You can find more information in the Safety checklist for leaders and at scouts.org.uk/safety

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Risk: Drowning, injury	Young people Visitors	Group briefings to raise awareness and dynamic assessments especially after heavy rain.	
Hazard: Trips, slips and falls Risk: Personal injury	Employees Adult volunteers Young people Visitors	Groups to make their members aware that all fields and other areas may have potholes, molehills, divots and other such uneven surfaces that could cause a trip or fall. Steep embankments are fenced off.	
Hazard: Risk of falling branches Risk: Personal injury	Employees Adult volunteers Young people Visitors	There are trees all around the campsite and there is always a risk of deadwood falling from trees. We undertake a regular woodland survey to identify dead wood that is then removed as a part of our woodland management but the risk, although reduced, is always there.	
Hazard: Natural environment - insect bites, stings and toxic plant interaction. Risk: Personal injury	Employees Adult volunteers Young people Visitors	Our wildlife, flora and fauna are diverse and there is always a chance some are poisonous. Briefing to raise awareness of hazards. Restrict foraging activities to experienced persons or under instruction of someone with experience.	
Hazard: Traffic Risk: Personal injury	Employees Adult volunteers Young people Visitors	When busy, traffic on our car park and internal roads is considerable. We restrict vehicle access to camping areas, but groups should brief young people about the dangers of vehicles on the car park and roads. Visitors need to exercise caution if walking to the activity field, as this entails leaving the main entrance to the site via the car park area and a short walk on Dean Lane which is the vehicular access route to the site. Group leaders should supervise young people accordingly. Similarly, the pedestrian entrance / vehicle exit to the training field leads into the car park entrance, so caution should be exercised.	
Hazard: Tractors and Plant Risk: Personal injury	Employees Adult volunteers Young people	We have various items of farm machinery (tractors etc) needed to maintain the site. Usage of these is restricted to trained personnel and our policy is to aim to use these when the site is not occupied, wherever possible. When it is necessary to use them, to help move equipment or	

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	Visitors	essential site maintenance for example, site staff will avoid areas being used by groups and young people as much as possible. Visitors to keep away from any machinery and especially when in use.	
Hazard: Asbestos / Roofs Risk: Long term health implications	Employees Adult volunteers Young people Visitors	An asbestos register is held and all asbestos is currently in areas out of reach from public areas. Groups to ensure young people do not climb building walls or on roof areas to avoid contact/ damage to areas containing asbestos and putting themselves in danger	
Hazard: Sewerage Pollution Risk: Personal injury – sickness. Unpleasant odours, site damage	Employees Adult volunteers Young people Visitors	Our sewerage facility is located in a part of the site which is clearly marked as out of bounds and behind a locked gate. Should the gate be open (for example, if staff are bringing equipment in/out of the compound), then under no circumstances should unauthorised people enter the area.	
Hazard: Adventurous activity structures Risk: Personal injury	Employees Adult volunteers Young people Visitors	We have several structures around the site used for adventurous activities. When not in use, these are fenced off, but leaders are advised to ensure that young people in their care do not attempt to climb on or use these facilities without properly trained adult supervision and leadership.	
Hazard: Third party access across site Risk: Members of the public approaching young people. Members of the public entering camping/activity areas.	Employees Adult volunteers Young people Visitors	Public footpaths cross various areas of BISC. These are clearly signed and ask walkers to ensure they stay on the footpath when passing through the site. As part of a safety briefing, Groups should inform their young people what to do if they are approached by someone that is unknown to them if they will have unaccompanied free time / visits to the toilet etc.	
Hazard: Uncontrolled dogs on site Risk: Possible distress, injury	Employees Adult volunteers Young people Visitors	Visitors staying on our site or using our facilities as a visit, are not permitted to bring dogs on site with the exception of assistance dogs. However, dogs may be on the site due to the public footpaths that cross site. Signage asks that dogs are kept on leads when on our land. Young people should be briefed not to approach any dogs whether on a lead or not.	

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