



Gradbach Scout Camp

Border Hike Committee

“Typical” Risk Assessment for Border Hike and John Bradbury Trophy

The following is a typical Risk Assessment carried out for the event, the assessment is reviewed each year and made bespoke for the route being undertaken and any other current risks

The event is an incident hike that takes place around the Derbyshire, Staffordshire and Cheshire borders. The hike starts and finishes at Gradbach Scout Camp Site, Old Hall Farm, Gradbach. The teams are given a kit list prior to the event, a route is given to the teams on the day of the hike and checkpoints are manned around the course. On the way around the set course the teams are required to complete various tasks.

The following risks have been identified for the above event and the actions are noted below to reduce/manage the risks.

1. Risk of teams being unsuitably equipped.

After receipt of an entry, each team is supplied with a kit list of items to be carried either as a team or as individuals. Prior to starting the hike this kit list is checked by a team of experienced hill walkers to a tick sheet to ensure ALL equipment is checked. If any item is missing the team is not allowed to start. On obtaining the missing item(s) they are then allowed to start. Unsuitably equipped teams will NOT be allowed to start.

2. Route Planning

The teams are given a route card and plan their hike in controlled conditions. The planned route is checked by Border Hike staff. If there are any faults in the route planning, then the corrections are made. If further help is required, a copy of the route will be issued to the teams to help with the understanding of the route.

3. Risk of Inexperienced/unsuitable team being entered.

A minimum age for individuals and team leaders is specified. The "composition of team" sheet is required to be endorsed by the team's local DC or ADC and Scout Leader that they are competent to do the event. This endorsement is deemed necessary because it is impossible for the organisers to be familiar with the capabilities of scouts from all over the country.

4. Risk of dehydration

All checkpoints have drinks available and transport is available to restock if necessary. The kit list includes carrying a drink.

5. Risk of losing a team.

Checkpoints (CP) are set up at approximately two-mile intervals, and all team members are timed and required to sign in at each CP. At each CP a radio operator passes to control the teams who have passed and any other relevant information. At each CP teams are required to confirm the location of the next CP and the direction they will take. If they are wrong the CP staff corrects them.

6. Risk when a team is lost.

Control and CP staff monitors progress of all teams. It is soon apparent when a team is lost. Mobile search teams in cars and the walking sweep team which follows the last teams are then mobilised to find them, continually being directed from control who have the complete picture.

Teams are also reminded of the standard signal for help using whistle or torch.

A Mobile telephone is to be carried by each team, the number is requested and recorded by control before setting out on the walk. We request that OS Locate is installed on the phone carried. A control telephone number is provided on the route sheet along with Gradbach full address.



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7. Risk when walking on roads

CP's are often sited at road junctions and the route may necessitate walking on the road. All staff are issued with High Viz tabards. Warning signs are set up by the hike committee on roads if necessary.

All competitors will be issued with High Viz rucksack covers to help with visibility.

8. Risk of unsuitable course.

Members of the organising committee walk the route beforehand to ensure suitability, and to advise landowners of the event.

9. Risk of unfit or delayed teams

The organisers reserve the right to withdraw and bring back to base any team or team member considered to be in danger through excessive lateness, darkness, injury or illness. Suitable transport is available throughout the hike to move teams quickly. If a team member retires, provision can be made for the remaining members of that team to join another team, so that they may complete the course in safety.

10. Risk of injury.

Event staff includes first aid trained either with the sweep team or other parts of the organisation who can quickly be taken to an injured competitor. Many other staff members are First Aid trained as they are scout leaders.

11. Risk of Adverse Weather

The organisers will review the weather forecast during the week of the event.

If there appears to be an issue with the forecast, the organisers will make a decision on the Thursday night regarding the weekend and if the event is to be called off all leaders will be contacted.

If the weather forecast for the weekend deteriorates on the Friday, the organisers will make a decision as required regarding the weekend and if the event is to be called off all leaders will be contacted with priority given to groups that have the longest travel.

The weather and external condition will be constantly monitored throughout the weekend.

If adverse weather puts hikers at risk due to cold, rain, fog etc the organiser will continually review the situation and if required, teams may be held in offsite locations ie village halls, the route will be revised to stick to roads/transported around exposed locations and if required the teams will be brought back to Gradbach by vehicles. The organisers will arrange transport to get the teams back to Gradbach as soon as possible.

Emergency Shelters are available with the sweep team and mobile units to protect the teams from the weather if required.

In the event of adverse weather whilst camping at Gradbach the three buildings, plus workshop and Flash village hall are available to accommodate all campers internally as required.

12. Covid

The organisers will constantly review the Government and Scout Association guidance with respect to Covid and the activities that are permitted. If the organisers feel that the event cannot be held in a safe Covid environment they will cancel the event, giving as much notice as possible.