

The Big Walk - Risk assessment

Use this risk assessment to help you understand the risks and any steps you need to take to stay safe before leading a group walk.

Walk Organiser (Name & ID)	Date of Walk	Walk Location	Date of Risk Assessment
	Monday 6 th May 2024		



Please do not hesitate if you would benefit from some advice or have any queries, please contact the team on 01736 757 900 or email bigwalk@cinnamon.org.uk

Introduction

The Big Walk is making a triumphant return, and we'd love you to take part. Save the date and prepare your comfiest shoes because we're gearing up to make this year's event even more unforgettable. Your support will help us grow in the public eye, increase inquiries, and expand our team of volunteers, ultimately allowing us to extend the reach of our services.

- The risk assessment presented in this document is a checklist highlighting some of the risks that individuals should consider in arranging their own walk/event – there may only be a small number that relate to your planned event, but we would suggest that you read through the list in case you come across any risks you may not have previously considered, especially if this is your first time organising a walk.
- Some walks may be rural, others urban, others may involve more challenging terrain under foot. Participant numbers, and therefore size of the event, will vary and those involved will be a ranging age/ability children and dogs taking part. Please remember to keep inclusivity in mind, the walk should be a celebration not a challenge!
- The basic 3 points below should be key in your location selection:
 1. Consider an event plan & identify the risks in your activity
 2. Consider control measures to minimise the identified risks
 3. Evaluate remaining risks and deem if on reflection the location is suitable.
- It is likely that the majority of the risk assessment below will only apply to a larger event than you are planning, and many factors mentioned may be an excessive consideration for your event. Please do not be put off by risks addressed and if you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact the team on 01736 757 900 or email bigwalk@cinnamon.org.uk



Possible Hazard/Issue	Who could be affected and how?	Planned control measures	Tick Y/N
Public Liability	Volunteers/participant/general public	Any walks will be covered by TCT's public liability insurance.	
Numbers/Audience	Think about +1's Family and friends to volunteers and general public using the area also? Will any attendees have additional needs? Does the site/route need to be fully accessible? Will children be in attendance? Will everyone walk together? Will route signage be required?	Consider audience and plan accordingly Ensure necessary data is captured so as available on the event (attendance sheet)	
Vehicles	Is there enough parking for the scale of the event, if the parking area accessible for all and the route from there to the event start point simple/safe?	Plan route and check for parking options ahead of time. Encourage lift sharing/public transport/walking if appropriate.	
Access/Departure	Same start/finish location? Adequate, Drop off option, Public transport, Signage, Disabled access, Emergency access	Visit start/finish location and plan access/departure	
Weather	Potential for wet weather, sheltered area to hand? Potential for windy weather - sturdy structures/shelter. Potential for strong sunshine, requirement for shade/shelter from the sun, water and suntan lotion. Hydration for dogs	Look at forecasts in advance and plan accordingly	
Structures	Buildings - Maintenance - Obstacles - Loose and unstable fittings. Gazebos/Stalls/tables - Quality and sturdiness - Who will erect and dismantle? - Adequate means of stabilising.	Consider poor/extreme weather plans and ensure that procedures are in place to cope with eventuality of wind and rain. Consider adequate 'staff', skills and competencies to avoid incidents.	

Trip hazards	Dog Leads, small dogs, children, Prams, obstacles, signage, steps and uneven ground.	Plan as to minimise. Ask attendees to sway toward non-extending leads.	
Terrain/hills	uneven terrain, tree roots, uneven pavement. Slippery tracks, steep drop offs, walking beside water etc. Steep ascents and descents. Wheelchairs/ buggies likely to attend?	Plan route according to anticipated participant mobility and fitness.	
Animals on route	Cows/horses/sheep in the fields group will pass through. Possible triggers for prey driven dogs	Avoid passing through fields with animals that are likely to be alarmed or cause alarm via group's presence.	
Clashes of interest	Clashes with other users of the route on the day e.g. horse riders, mountain bikers, walkers, general public	Participants briefed on courtesy to other users of the trail. Check online for notices of other local events happening at the same time/location	
Theft/vandalism	Theft or vandalism of items left unattended.	Keep belongings on your person.	
Manual handling	Lifting of kit. Storage of kit. Confined spaces for manoeuvre.	Consider kit and manual handling. Consider space. Consider access and distances loads may need to be carried.	
Cliffs or sheer drop	Risk of falls, slips, pathways falling away	Check paths are suitable for a group to use safely and make changes if necessary. Follow any local warnings or signs, and advise walkers to keep away from the edge.	
Dog comfort	A large event or gathering of many people/pets may not be every dogs cup of tea, so be mindful of this. Crowds, loud noises, traffic dense area, or being surrounded/forced into close proximity to another dogs space can all be worrying for a dog	Think about the dog you are proposing to take and if they would suit such a walk. Be mindful of space and quieter areas (not next to busy roads/streets)	

Keeping control of a dog on the lead.

Dogs all have their own triggers and strengths. The most experienced/confident volunteer should be leading the dog and any CT dog **MUST** only be walked by a volunteer (not a child, member of the public)

All dogs participating should be on a lead, where possible a fixed lead rather than an extendable one - to avoid tangles. Remind volunteers mindful of the dog they are walking & their own abilities - what if they pull towards something? - is the dog secure and in your full control. Keep reactive dogs either at home or muzzled. Be aware that not all dogs get along, give dogs space and time to greet each other properly before entering close proximity.

This template is a tool to help you plan and lead your 'Big Walk' safely. Use the template to assess whether your walk is safe and suitable. We've included suggestions for the ways to control and limit the risks - you do not need to tick every box if not applicable. The important thing is to identify the potential hazards and mitigate against those risks. We've included some common examples, but think carefully about your own walk in case anything needs adding. It's important to carry out a risk assessment before the walk takes place.



Thank You & Have Fun!

