

Guide Over Sands Trust 2021

Risk Assessment and Insurance:

Charities are expected to undertake and be responsible for the preparation of a risk assessment for their walk. A sample risk assessment is provided below for information but the responsibility for preparing the risk assessment for walks is solely the responsibility of the organisation/charity which must take individual circumstances into account.

Charities should organise their own public liability insurance for their walk and the Guide over Sands Trust takes no responsibility for the organisation of walks or for individual walkers.

Indicative Risk Assessment for Cross Bay Walks

Hazards identified	Persons at risk	Risk Factor (High / Med / Low) Your decision	Measures taken by the Guide (and Guide Over Sands Trust) to control the risk	Measures to be taken by participating charities/organisations to control the risk
Bay crossing can be extremely dangerous due to changing conditions, quick sands, river and other channels	Participants, Marshalls, Volunteers,		The Guide walks the route the day before a walk is planned and marks out a safe route. If no safe route can be identified the cross-bay walk will be cancelled. The walk will be led from the front by the Guide. One of the Guide's Marshals will be at the rear to ensure no slower walkers are left behind. The Guide informs the coast guard that the walk is taking place and for how many walkers.	Charity organisations provide stewards to ensure walkers stay with the group and follow the Guide's instructions. Each charity should have an identified lead marshal as well as an appropriate number of additional marshalls (1 marshal per 50 walkers) We will contact the charities / lead person 48 hours before the walk date to confirm if the walk can go ahead as planned.

<p>Uneven and slippery ground Slips/trips/falls</p>	<p>Participants, Marshalls, Volunteers,</p>		<p>The Guide will set an appropriate, comfortable walking pace and will point out particular hazards to walkers en route.</p>	<p>Charity Organisers are to brief all involved of events on potential en route hazards. Marshals to monitor and direct walkers at hazardous points such as the channel crossing. All participants are required to carry emergency contact numbers in case of an incident. Charity Marshalls are to be easily identifiable in case of incident. Appropriate footwear to be worn.</p>
<p>Weather Dehydration, cold/hypothermia</p>	<p>Participants, Marshals , Volunteers,</p>		<p>Guidance for participating organisations published on Guide Over Sands Trust website.</p>	<p>Monitor the weather forecast before the event and advise to dress accordingly. Walkers to be advised: Liquid refreshment to be carried Sunscreen/hats to be worn Layers of warm/waterproof clothing as appropriate to conditions No alcohol to be consumed</p>
<p>Illness or injury Participants needing medical attention during walk</p>	<p>Participants, Marshals, Volunteers,</p>		<p>The Guide informs the Coastguard when walks are scheduled and also carries a mobile phone to contact emergency services if necessary. A tractor is also available for after the channel crossing.</p>	<p>Charity organisers are to make participants aware of the rigours of the walk when booking. Charity organisers are to provide Marshals who will assist walkers if required.</p>
<p>Fatigue Participants unable to complete walk due to fatigue</p>	<p>Participants</p>		<p>The Guide has a tractor which accompanies the walk for the section after the river crossing.</p>	<p>Charity organisers are to make participants aware of the rigours of the walk when booking.</p>

				Charity organisers are to provide stewards who will assist walkers if required.
Separation Participant separated from main group of walkers	Participants		The Guide informs the Coastguard when walks are scheduled and carries a mobile phone to contact emergency services if necessary All walkers are to be registered for each walk before and after the walk to ensure all participants are accounted for.	Children to be supervised at all times by parents or designated adults. Marshals ensure walkers stay with the main group. Charity organisers are responsible for registering walkers at the start of walk and checking all walkers against their register at the end. Mobile phone communication between Marshals, charity's lead Marshal and the Guide. Guide to be informed immediately if a walker is missing.
Moving Traffic and Trains Road traffic at start and end of walk. Crossing train track at Kents Bank.	Participants, Marshalls, Volunteers,			Charity Organisers Marshal ensures that all walkers cross safely.
Train Capacity Participants unable to access the start of walk due to insufficient capacity on trains.	Participants, Marshalls, Volunteers,	No danger, but risk of disappointment and annoyance		Charity organisers are to provide suitable means of alternative transport. All our walks are to start at the designated start time.

				Walkers who are not registered and are not there at the start time are not the guides responsibility.
COVID19				
Prior to the walk	Participants, Marshalls, Volunteers			All charities must provide the Guide over Sands trust a list of all walker's name and contact details as part of the governments track and trace. Maintaining Social distancing at all times.
Briefing	Participants, Marshalls, Volunteers			All walkers are to maintain social distancing when the Guide gives the walk briefing. Facemasks are to be worn during this time except for the Guide or if medically exempt. .
During the walk	Participants, Marshalls, Volunteers			Walkers are to maintain social distancing throughout and during the walk itself.
After the walk	Participants, Marshalls, Volunteers			We strongly advise against any gatherings once walkers have finished the walk.

				Social Distancing must be adhered to all times.
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This risk assessment is intended as a guide only, and we advise charity organisers to ensure that they draw up a risk assessment covering all aspects of the walk, including any not covered above.

2021