

# BLS General Field Risk Assessment

British Lichen Society

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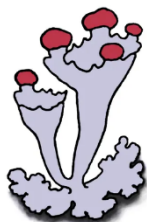
Hazards (including possible type of injury)	People at risk (e.g. leader, participants, general public)	Risk before controls			Control measures	Risk after controls		
		S e v e r i t y	L i k e l i h o o d	R i s k		S e v e r i t y	L i k e l i h o o d	R i s k
					<b>Severity:</b> 1= Inconvenient, 2 = Minor injury, 3 = Injury, 4 = Major injury, 5 = Fatality or multiple injuries <b>Likelihood:</b> 1 = Unlikely, 2 = Rare, 3 = Infrequent, 4 = Occasional, 5 = Frequent <b>Risk = severity x likelihood</b>			
First-aid provision		-	-	-	Leaders to ensure that an appropriate first-aid kit is carried and that the carrier is known to the group. To include a tick remover and hand sanitiser.	-	-	-
Summoning further help		-	-	-	Leaders to determine how further help can be summoned e.g. nearest phone or area with mobile reception.	-	-	-
Emergency contacts		-	-	-	Group leader will keep a list of participants with emergency contact details for each person (including themselves). At least two people will know where the list is available.	-	-	-
Dynamic risk assessment		-	-	-	Dynamic risk assessment will be undertaken by the leaders throughout all activities to accommodate changing or unexpected situations.	-	-	-
Traffic – road crossings	Leaders Participants	5	4	20	Roads avoided whenever possible. Participants reminded to walk on verge if safe to do so or, if walking on the road surface, to walk against on-coming traffic unless a curve in the road would then obscure them from the sight of on-coming vehicles.	4	2	8
Traffic – gathering in car parks	Leaders Participants	3	4	12	Leader to arrive early and to encourage people to gather in safe area.	2	1	2
Navigation – loss of orientation	Leaders Participants	1	3	4	Leader to carry map, compass and GPS-enabled smart phone. Leader to pre-visit site if possible.	1	1	1
Navigation – planned splitting of group	Leaders Participants	1	4	4	Splinter groups to inform leader, have maps and have a time and place for re-joining	1	2	2

Accidental separation of group	Leaders Participants	3	4	12	Leaders to regularly check dispersal of group and to ensure that slower participants are not left behind and faster ones do not go too far ahead. Participants to be told to inform a leader if they need to leave the group.	3	2	6
Loss of an individual	Leaders Participants	3	5	15	If an individual cannot be seen it is advised that the group wait in the area where they are and a small number of people sent to look for the missing individual.	3	2	6
Slips, trips and falls	Leaders Participants	4	3	12	Participants to be required to wear suitable foot wear, preferably sturdy walking boots in all but the gentlest terrain. Participants advised to avoid terrain that appears unsafe.	3	1	3

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Falling objects	Leaders Participants	5	2	10	Participants will be advised to keep vigilant of the surrounding environment, both at ground level and above for falling trees and boulders. Plan alternative access routes if original route is unpassable.	5	1	5
Weather: heavy rain, high winds, thunder & lightning.	Leaders Participants	4	5	20	Weather forecast will be checked before fieldwork commences. If conditions are unfavourable, the meeting will be cancelled.	3	3	9
Weather: low temperatures - hypothermia	Leaders Participants	5	2	10	Weather forecast will be checked before fieldwork commences. In cold weather participants will be required to be suitably dressed. If conditions are very cold, the meeting will be cancelled.	3	3	9
Weather: high temperatures – heat stroke	Leaders Participants	5	2	10	Weather forecast will be checked before fieldwork commences. If temperatures are likely to exceed 30°C, the meeting will be cancelled.	3	2	6
Weather: sun-sunburn	Leaders Participants	2	5	10	Participants will be advised to take appropriate measures on sunny days; covering bare skin, wearing sun hats and use of an effective sunscreen on sensitive bare skin.	2	2	4
Twigs, branches – head and eye damage	Leaders Participants	3	4	12	Participants will be advised to take care when examining lichens, especially in thorny bushes.	3	2	6
Litter	Leaders Participants	3	3	9	Participants will be advised to avoid areas with litter, particularly cut glass, metal and needles.	3	1	3

Loss of daylight	Leaders Participants	4	3	12	Leader will aim to have participants back to meeting point before low light levels impact on walking in the terrain.	4	2	8
Use of chemicals	Leaders Participants	3	3	9	The use of spot test chemicals (KOH & bleach) will be applied with extreme caution, with small quantities applied carefully to the lichen to be tested. There will be water available to wash off the skin if contact is made.	3	1	3
Use of UV torches	Leaders Participants	3	3	9	Participants will be advised not to shine UV lights into their eyes, to use UV safety glasses if intending close work and especially not to use near other participants without warning them to avert their eyes.	1	1	1
Use of knives	Leaders Participants	4	4	16	Sample knives must be legal in all aspects except with a rigid or lock blade. Non-locking pen knives are banned from use as sample knives on BLS meetings	2	1	2
Use of hammer and chisel	Leaders Participants	4	4	16	Care taken in the use of hammer and chisels for sampling rock, with safety glasses used and a warning given to anyone close by to stand back.	2	1	2
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Zoonosis: Animal faeces and urine	Leaders Participants	5	2	10	Leaders to be aware of the dangers of animal faeces and urine such as Toxoplasmosis and toxocariasis. Participants will be warned of areas used by high numbers of dog-walkers and the risk of examining lichens near the ground. Hand sanitiser will be made available at meal/snack times.	5	1	5
Zoonosis: Weil's disease	Leaders Participants	5	2	10	Leaders to be aware of Weil's disease and to warn participants. In aquatic areas, no open cuts or wounds will be exposed to water.	5	1	5
Zoonosis: Lyme disease	Leaders Participants	5	2	10	Leaders to be aware of Lyme disease and to warn participants. Participants will be reminded to do body checks for ticks and any ticks found will be removed with a tick remover. The bite site will be regularly monitored after removal, with medical advice sought from GP regarding complications.			
Invasion of privacy - photography	Leaders Participants	2	5	10	Participants asked to indicate at beginning of meeting if they do not wish to appear in photographs. Everyone asked to respect people's right to avoid photography.	2	1	2
Data protection	Leaders Participants	2	3	6	Attendance sheets kept out of sight and destroyed immediately after the meeting.	2	1	2

Note: Children and vulnerable adults have not been included in this risk assessment. They should be included in site specific or event specific risk assessments if likely to attend.



British Lichen Society

# BLS Site Specific Field Risk Assessment

Site/trip name: West Norwood Cemetery

**Full address of site entrance or carpark:** West Norwood Cemetery and Crematorium, Norwood Rd, Norwood, London SE27 9JU

**What3word of access point:** cones.look.found

**Local accident/emergency/minor injury unit and phone number:** 999

**Closest A&E:** Croydon University Hospital, Mayday Rd, Thornton Heath CR7 7FF

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General		-	-	-	The BLS General Field Risk Assessment will be followed in addition to the points below.	-	-	-
Headstones – falling, broken	Leaders Participants	5	2	10	Participants will be advised to keep vigilant of the headstones and tombs, both at ground level and above. Check whether the stones are secure before examining lichens on them.	5	1	5

Consider:

Additional safety equipment and who will carry it or where will it be available

Sign in sheet – is photo permission wanted on this? Statement about use for photos eg for newsletter or web use?

Hygiene: such as toilet access, provision of soap and/or hand sanitiser

Special training requirements of leaders: such as first-aid, mountain leadership

Traffic-based hazards: such as roads, farm traffic

Horse, mountain bikes, dogs

Livestock

Land-based hazards such as steep cliffs, rock screes, fallen trees, muddy banks

Water-based hazards: such as rivers, lakes, gorges, weirs, flooded areas, tides, drainage channels, salt marshes, mudflats, bogs

Urban -based hazards: such as buildings, ruins

Farm-based hazards: such as slurry pits, gas tanks, livestock

Industry-based hazards: such as earth-moving equipment, slug heaps, mine shafts

Indoor hazards: include fire evacuation

Situational trip hazards: such as gravestones

Additional weather-based hazards: such as snow, snow on branches, ice

Additional equipment hazards: such as use of hammer and chisel

Additional bio-hazards: such as Weil's Disease, midges and mosquitos