



British Lichen Society

BLS General Field Risk Assessment

Activities should only be undertaken if the risk can be adjusted to be less than 10.

Hazards (including possible type of injury)	People at risk (e.g. leader, participants, general public)	Risk before controls			Control measures	Risk after controls		
		Severity	Likelihood	Risk		Severity	Likelihood	Risk
					Severity: 1= Inconvenient, 2 = Minor injury, 3 = Injury, 4 = Major injury, 5 = Fatality or multiple injuries Likelihood: 1 = Unlikely, 2 = Rare, 3 = Infrequent, 4 = Occasional, 5 = Frequent Risk = severity x likelihood			
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.	-	-	-
Summoning further help		-	-	-	Leaders to determine how further help can be summoned e.g. nearest phone or area with mobile reception.	-	-	-
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
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
Zoonosis	Leaders Participants	5	2	10	Leaders to be aware of outdoor diseases e.g. Weil's Disease, Lyme disease and to warn participants. In aquatic areas, no open cuts or wounds will be exposed to water. 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.	5	1	5