

## Risk Assessment for walks undertaken by the Reading and District Natural History Society

**Severity:** How severe is any injury or health effect likely to be? Minor=1, Serious=2, Major=3, Fatal=4

**Likelihood:** How likely is exposure to the hazard? Very unlikely=1, Unlikely=2, Possible=3, Likely=4

**Note on choosing the level of Likelihood:** “Very unlikely” may be attributed to an event with a frequency of less than 1 in 500, “Unlikely” of less than 1 in 50, “Possible” of less than 1 in 10, “Likely” of equal to or more than 1 in 10.

**Risk Score:** This is calculated by multiplying Severity x Likelihood.

Low=1-3, Medium=4-6, High=8-9, Very High=12-16

| Hazards   | Severity   | Likelihood | Risk Score | Control Measures  |
|---|------------|------------|------------|---|
| Extreme weather   | 2          | 1          | 2          | Ensure attendees have suitable attire and consider abandoning walk in extreme weather, especially if the walk goes through woodland.                      |
| <b>Difficult terrain (e.g. ploughed fields)</b>                                     | <b>1</b>   | <b>3**</b> | <b>3</b>   | <b>Describe terrain. Recommend moving in pairs. Use torches. Look out for ‘potholes’.</b>   |
| Forests   | 1          | 3          | 3          | Consider likelihood of falling branches in wind and slips, trips and falls. Maintain contact with the group to ensure no one is lost.                     |
| Water (e.g. ponds, rivers, sea, canals, marshes etc)                                | 3          | 1          | 3          | Be vigilant when near water, especially if children are present.  |
| Obstacles (e.g. fences, stiles etc.)  | 1          | 3          | 3          | Ensure assistance is available, if required, for tackling these obstacles   |
| Length of walk  | 1          | 2          | 2          | Ensure walk is not too long for the participants  |
| Animals   | 1          | 2          | 2          | Avoid confrontations with wild (deer), dogs and cattle.   |
| <b>Ticks, harvest mites &amp; biting/stinging insects (e.g. mosquitos, hornets)</b> | <b>2</b>   | <b>3**</b> | <b>6</b>   | <b>Tuck trousers into socks. Be aware that hornets can sting if caught up in loose clothing. Advise looking for ticks on the person after the event.*</b> |
| Micro-organisms (e.g. Weil’s disease from rat frequented water)                     | 2          | 1          | 2          | Wash hands before eating  |
| Toxic or allergenic plants  | 1          | 1          | 1          | Avoid physical contact and wash hands after any accidental contact.   |
| <b>Machinery, vehicles, traffic, Electrical equipment</b>                           | <b>3*</b>  | <b>1*</b>  | <b>3*</b>  | <b>Avoid contact with electrical equipment. Do not go through the contents of a trap uninvited.*</b>  |
| <b>Bright Lights</b>  | <b>1**</b> | <b>4**</b> | <b>4**</b> | <b>Don’t look directly at MV lamps, (as you would not look at the sun)**</b>  |
| <b>MV lamps</b>   | <b>3**</b> | <b>1**</b> | <b>3**</b> | <b>Be aware that MV bulbs have been known to explode. Unprotected bulbs approached at your own risk.**</b>  |
| <b>Glass tubes</b>  | <b>1**</b> | <b>2**</b> | <b>2**</b> | <b>Glass tubes can break. Be careful**</b>  |

**Other hazards:**

Identify and give details.....

*For each hazard ticked above, consider ways in which exposure to these hazards may be eliminated or minimised (if elimination is not possible) and modify the activity if necessary. Re-calculate the Risk Scores if applicable.*

*\*, \*\* indicate different risk scores(\*) or hazards (\*\*) to those for normal RDNHS walks*