

BPS GENERIC RISK ASSESSMENT FOR FIELD MEETINGS

HAZARD	HOW LIKELY	DETAILS	RECOMMENDATIONS TO MINIMISE THE RISK
Dangers related to hazardous nature of site visited	High	Include falls from steep slopes; damage from fallen/falling rocks or vegetation; falling into water or bogs	Meeting Leader: Ensures all participants have signed the Declarations Form. Briefs attendees on hazards specific to the site. Carries a First Aid kit or ensures that one is carried. Nominates a deputy to ensure that the group remain in contact.
Incapacitating injury to a member of the group	Low	Examples may be broken limbs, heart attack etc.	Meeting Leader: Carries a First Aid Kit or ensures that one is carried. Carries a mobile phone and ensures that at least a deputy carry one. Ensures that at least two members of the group, with a mobile phone, remain with the casualty until help arrives.
Specific hazards associated with mountain, moorland or wild terrain	High	Weather may change and become life-threatening; mobile phone communication may be poor. Risk of injury is increased. Mist etc, increases the danger of separation.	Obtain a good weather forecast and avoid high or dangerous sites if it is poor. The Meeting Leader ensures that all attendees have read and undertake to observe the BPS Safety Code. This recommends, among other things that survival blankets are used, and that adequate food is carried. Notify people at “base” of intended route and intended time of return, preferably in writing. It is particularly important that clothing and footwear are adequate. Brightly-coloured clothing aids visibility. The Meeting Leader and at least a nominated deputy carry mobile phones, and ensure that all members of the group stay in touch, or in sight in case of mist/fog. A whistle is invaluable. The Meeting Leader is a confident navigator.
Being hit by a vehicle on the road	High	Road walking is often unavoidable on the way to sites. Ferns are often abundant/interesting on roadside verges and it is easy to become distracted.	Meeting Leader: Warns attendees of traffic hazards. Ensures that a leader and a back marker wear Hi-Vis or brightly-coloured clothing and are responsible for keeping the group together and away from traffic.
Contracting Lyme disease	Low	Caused by a bacterium which is carried by 2-3% of ticks. Ticks may occur almost anywhere and are not restricted to moorland.	Tuck trousers into boots or socks and wear tight-fitting long-sleeved upper garments to avoid potential contact with ticks. A tick repellent such as DEET may be helpful but should not be relied on. Ticks require attachment for 36-48 hours to transmit disease. Therefore careful inspection and prompt removal, using tweezers is essential. A characteristic “bulls-eye” (red area around the bite, and an outer flare) follows infection in c. 75% (only) of cases. Where this occurs, or where flu-like symptoms follow a bite, a doctor should be contacted promptly.
Getting Lost	Medium		Stay in groups, Carry a mobile phone, If you leave early get a message to the leader so they know you are safe and don't need to search for you. Make a note of the leader's mobile number.