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| **Risk** | **Potential Consequences** | **Likelihood** | **Impact** | **Prevention/mitigation/elimination measures** |
| Injury to Member | Slips or trips may predominantly lead to leg injuries. Facial injuries may result from over-hanging branches.Serious falls on rocky or other difficult terrain may lead to extensive body injury, this includes crossing water courses.Pre-existing medical conditions may lead to heart attack, dizziness etc dependent upon the condition.The use of stiles can be problematic to some walkers.Exceptional circumstances (e.g. Covid-19 restrictions) may raise the potential for transmission of illness. | L | M | It is the responsibility of all walkers to critically evaluate their own medical and physical condition in relation to each proposed walk.The Walk Leader should alter the general pace of the walk to account for the slowest member of the group.Walkers should walk behind the Walk Leader so that warnings can be given before adverse conditions are encountered. All walkers should be prepared to offer assistance to others to reduce the risk of injury. When walking along a road, members should face on-coming traffic whenever possible and walk in single file; those towards the front and rear should call warnings of approaching traffic. Similarly, when on a bridleway, warning of approaching horses, cycles etc should be sounded. If a road needs to be crossed all walkers should assist in making the decision when and where to cross.All walkers should carry a first aid kit and a mobile phone for emergency use.Exceptional circumstances require a related response which may include not accessing farm properties (Foot and Mouth outbreak), maintaining social distancing and minimising contact with surfaces such as gates and stiles (Covid-19) etc. The prevailing Government guidance must be followed. |
| Injury to member of public | Encounters with the public are generally confined to meeting other walking groups or horse riders/cyclists and when crossing roads. Bodily injury may occur in the event of conflict. | VL | M | When using public roads and bridleways the rights of users must be respected. On roads walk facing the oncoming traffic and walkers to the front and rear of the column should raise a warning of approaching traffic. On bridleways stop to allow the passage of riders and refrain from exaggerated movements which might frighten a horse. On narrow footpaths members should consider where to allow other walkers to pass in a safe mannerRoads should be crossed where adequate visibility provides drivers with clear advanced warning of the group’s intentions. |
| Injury to livestock | Livestock may be injured by changes to their original circumstances. | L | M | All gates must be left in the state in which the group encounters them (e.g. open or closed). The first walker to encounter a gate should note the means of closure and remain until the group has passed through and then secure the gate as appropriate.Livestock should not be approached unless necessary. Passage through a gathering of cows, sheep extra should be undertaken sedately.Livestock must never be fed. |
| Damage to private property | Many routes may encounter dry stone walls of varying degree of stability and susceptibility to damage. | VL | L | All walls, fences etc should only be crossed by access to gates and stiles. This is particularly applicable when walking on Access Land. |
| Influence of weather | Hot weather may lead to sun-burn and de-hydration.Wet weather (including snow and ice) may increase the risk of slips or falls.Fog may lead to difficulty in navigation.High winds may lead to difficulty in exposed areas. | M | H | All walkers must come fully equipped for all potential weather conditions which may be encountered. In addition to clothing and footwear this includes water, emergency food, sun-screen etc.In adverse conditions the Group and Walk Leader will confer prior to the walk to determine if the walk should be modified or cancelled. The Group Leader will inform members if the walk is to be cancelled.Similarly, during a walk the Group Leader (if present), Walk Leader and all walkers will make decisions based on prevailing conditions to modify or curtail the walk. |

NB: It is not possible to foresee all risks. By becoming a member of BSW you accept that you participate at **your own risk** and you acknowledge that **you have read and accept the Disclaimer**.