# Greensand Ridge walk in a day

BBN Social Walk for 40th Anniversary

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| Date of event | Saturday 10 June 2023 |
| Local Group Organiser | BBN |
| Event Start | Gamlingay |
| Event Finish | Leighton Buzzard |
| Risk Assessment Author | Teresa Brown |
| Person responsible for overseeing Covid compliance | Teresa Brown |

DESCRIPTION OF EVENT

A 40-mile linear, medium-paced led group walk, walking this long distance path east to west from Gamlingay to Leighton Buzzard. Parking at Leighton Buzzard station with coach to Gamlingay leaving LB station at 5.45 am. Support (food and drink) on route, with main stop at Ampthill at approx 21.5 miles. Downloadable certificate upon completion.  
Leaders: Alan Leadbetter, Roy Carter, Dee Brockway and Terry Brown. Support: Mary Knight, Sarah Feal, Norman Corrin, Susan Jenkins and Gordon Shaughnessy.

AIM OF RISK ASSESSMENT AND WHO IT COVERS

The primary aim of the Risk Assessment is to understand key risks around the event and for the organisers to demonstrate they have been mitigated to an acceptable level.

Event Risk Assessment

The Event Risk Assessment form requires systematic completion of the form as follows (see appendix A for further information):

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| Column A | Identification of all significant hazards and risks associated with the event including financial and reputational risks. |
| Column B | An assessment of the level of risk that these hazards/risks can impose on the event into high, medium and low risk **BEFORE** inserting the control measures (column D). This will also reflect the impact and the likelihood of the event occurring. |
| Column C | An assessment of the level of risk that the same hazards/risks can impose **AFTER** inserting the control measures (column D). |
| Column D | The proposed measures to be undertaken in order to control the risk. |
| Column E | The timescales and identification of personnel in order to ensure that the measures proposed are actually implemented |

Route Risk Assessment

A Route Risk Assessment Form is completed for the entire route and guidance is given in appendix A. It contains 6 columns as follows:

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| Column A | Paragraph number of the hazard/risk in the route description |
| Column B | Grid reference of hazard/risk |
| Column C | Description of hazard/risk |
| Column D | An assessment of the level of risk that the hazard/risk imposes assessed as high, medium or low **BEFORE** inserting the control measures. This will also reflect the impact and likelihood of an accident /incident occurring. |
| Column E | An assessment of the level of risk that the same hazards/risks impose **AFTER** inserting the control measures. |
| Column F | Control measures suggested. |

EVENT RISK ASSESSMENT

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| PART 1 ORGANISING THE EVENT |

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| A)  HAZARD/RISK | B)  INITIAL  RISK LEVEL  H/M/L | C)  REVISED RISK LEVEL  H/M/L | D)  MANAGING THE RISK  PROPOSED ACTION/CONTROL MEASURES | E)  WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR FURTHER ACTION AND BY WHEN |
| 1.1 That the event organisers do not have the necessary skills and commitment to organise the event adequately. | Low | Low | Experienced event organisers and support team: Terry Brown, Mary Knight, Gill Bunker and Sarah Feal. Norman Corrin, Gordon Shaughnessy, Susan Jenkins | No further action required |
| 1.2 Event organisers are not familiar enough with the most up to date best practice on preventing Covid-19 transmission | Low | Low | * Usual good practice precautions in place. Mostly outdoors. Good ventilation in indoor stop points. Sanitiser available. People unlikely to attend if they feel ill. | No further action required |
| 1.3 Walkers taking part are not appropriately qualified or equipped for the event leading to accident, injuries and placing extreme pressure on organisation of event. | Low | Low | * Walkers know the challenge, and generally used to walking longer distances. Support crew available if anyone decides to retire. * Torches, first aid kits and survival bags/foil blankets to be carried. Food and drink being provided through the day, Plenty of stops. | Support team will closely monitor walkers throughout the day |
| 1.4 Organisers are unable to attract sufficient volunteers to act as marshals. | Low | Low | * Support team in place | No further action required |
| 1.5 Support team are not appropriately briefed or supported leading to organisational failures or unacceptable exposure to Covid-19 transmission risks. | Low | Low | * Support team have been briefed. WhatsApp group set up for comms during the day | Situation will be closely monitored throughout the day |
| 1.6 Event cancelled at last minute due to non-availability of key accommodation, major problems en route or prevailing poor weather. | Low | Low | * WhatsApp group set up for comms during the day | Situation will be closely monitored throughout the day |
| 1.7 Budget for event is inadequate leading to cut backs on facilities, essential kit and loss of flexibility to respond to emergencies. | Low | Low | * All planned in hand. Budget sorted out and agreed. | No further action required |
| 1.9 Transport arrangements are inadequate. Supplies for checkpoints are not delivered in time. Drivers may also become unduly tired and might not have adequate local knowledge. | Low | Low | * All planned and in hand. Plenty of back up options if there are problems. Local knowledge good. | No further action required |
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| PART 2 FACILITIES, ROUTE AND STAFFING |

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| A)  HAZARD/RISK | B)  INITIAL  RISK LEVEL  H/M/L | C)  REVISED RISK LEVEL  H/M/L | D)  MANAGING THE RISK  PROPOSED ACTION/CONTROL MEASURES | E)  FURTHER ACTION NEEDED/BY DATE |
| 2.1 |  |  |  |  |
| 2.2 That the checkpoints are not suitable, sufficient or unacceptably increase Covid-19 transmission risks | Low | Low | * Indoors facilities – spacious to accommodate approx. 20 people. Others are outdoors | No further action required |
| 2.3 Hygiene measures for food/drink preparation is not suitable, sufficient or unacceptably increase Covid-19 transmission risks. | Low | Low | * Experienced food preparers and servers. Good food hygiene practices will be carried out. Food to be kept cold where necessary. | No further action required |
| 2.4 That the route is not appropriate for an LDWA event. It may be too difficult in terms of the terrain and it may be inadequately described and not signed in key areas. This could lead to accident/injury, people getting lost. | Low | Low | * The Greensand Ridge Walk is a well-known local long distance trail- it is well signposted on the ground and shown on OS maps. Sections will be led by walkers who know the route well. The terrain isn’t extreme and always close to roads and habitation. * Note that the mobile phone signal in Woburn isn’t brilliant. | No further action required |
| 2.5 Refreshments are not adequate to meet needs of walkers causing problems with dehydration, loss of energy etc. | Low | Low | * Food and drink stops planned. Extra water stops will be provided if necessary, on the day. | Situation will be closely monitored throughout the day |

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| PART 3 EVENT MANAGEMENT |

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| A)  HAZARD/RISK | B)  INITIAL  RISK LEVEL  H/M/L | C)  REVISED RISK LEVEL  H/M/L | D)  MANAGING THE RISK  PROPOSED ACTION/CONTROL MEASURES | E)  FURTHER ACTION NEEDED/BY DATE |
| 3.1 That incidents and possible emergencies are not managed on the day leading to escalation of problems. | Low | Low | * Comms will be maintained at all times between the walkers, support team and Ampthill main stop point. Support team have first aid kit, 2 cars are available and some are first aid trained. Walkers can retire and will be transported back to Leighton Buzzard * Note that the mobile phone signal in Woburn isn’t brilliant. | Situation will be closely monitored throughout the day |
| 3.2 Walkers become lost and/or are unaccounted for. | Low | Low | * Walk leaders will make sure that the group keeps together. | Situation will be closely monitored throughout the day |
| 3.3 Walkers (or possibly marshals’) require medical treatment beyond the scope of their own medical kit (see guidance and best practice for challenge event organisers). | Low | Low | * Walk leader or Support team can call emergency services and arrange for someone to stay with casualty until help arrives. | Situation will be closely monitored throughout the day |
| 3.4 Disposal of rubbish and recycling is not managed leading to reputational damage to LDWA and Local Group. Additionally, gates are left open on route and items dropped on route | Low | Low | * Walk leaders and walkers are familiar with gates to be dealt with in accordance with Countryside Code. Walkers will be reminded to pick up any dropped litter. Support team will deal with waste and recycling | Gill to mention at start of walk on the day. |
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| ROUTE RISK ASSESSMENT |

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| Location | B)  GRID REF | C)  HAZARD/RISK | D)  INITIAL  RISK LEVEL  H/M/L | E)  REVISED RISK LEVEL  H/M/L | F)  CONTROL MEASURES |
| **General in all sections –** Uneven ground, trip hazards, overhanging branches. | | | M | L | Walk leader to point out specific issues as they are encountered. Walkers to pass message to others. |
| **First Section - Gamlingay to Northill** | | |  |  |  |
| Everton, Church Road | TL2926751283 to TLTL2019251185 | Walk along quiet country lane with no path in day light. | M | L | Walk leader will remind walkers to be aware of vehicles, walk to face on-coming traffic. |
| Just before Sandy, Sand Lane | TL1835449259 to TL1789949312 | Walk along quiet country lane with no path in day light. | M | L | Walk leader will remind walkers to be aware of vehicles, walk to face on-coming traffic. |
| Northill, Thorncote Lane road junction | TL1495747026 to TL1495746582 | Walk along village road with no path in day light. | M | L | Walk leader will remind walkers to be aware of vehicles, walk to face on-coming traffic. |
| **Second Section Northill to Ampthill** | | |  |  |  |
| Northill, Bedford Road to GRW turn off | TL1495746582 to  TL1475746599 | Walk along village road with no path in day light. | M | L | Walk leader will remind walkers to be aware of vehicles, walk to face on-coming traffic. |
| Nr Warden Street, Cross Bedford Road | TL1124344423 | Cross quiet country lane in day light. | M | L | Walk leader will remind walkers to be aware of vehicles before crossing. Support team may attend. |
| Deadmans Cross, Cross A600, High Road. | TL1100642030 | Cross busy road in day light | M | L | Walk leader will remind walkers to be aware of vehicles before crossing. Support team with hi- viz will attend. |
| Nr Haynes Church End Road to Appley Corner | TL10195 to TL1058241086 | Walk along busy country lane with wide verge in day light. | M | L | Walk leader will remind walkers to be aware of vehicles, walk to face on-coming traffic or on wide verge. |
| Clophill, Great Lane, Kiln Lane, Old Kiln Lane | TL0897138732 to TL0831738631 | Walk along village road with no path in day light. | M | L | Walk leader will remind walkers to be aware of vehicles, walk to face on-coming traffic. |
| Clophill, The Slade, Back lane | TL 0831 3834 to TL 0810 3802 | Walk along village road with no path in day light. | M | L | Walk leader will remind walkers to be aware of vehicles, walk to face on-coming traffic. |
| Nr Clophill, Cross A6 Deadmans Hill | TL 0752 3893 | Cross very busy dual carriageway road in day light | M | L | Walk leader will remind walkers to be aware of vehicles before crossing each carriage way separately middle island. Support team with hi viz will attend. |
| Maulden, George Street | TL 0561 3803 to TL 0543 3807 | Walk along village road with no path in day light. | M | L | Walk leader will remind walkers to be aware of vehicles, walk to face on-coming traffic. |
| Maulden, Cross The Brache | TL 0519 3838 | Cross quiet country lane in day light. | M | L | Walk leader will remind walkers to be aware of vehicles before crossing. |
| Ampthill, Cross busy B530 road on bend with poor visibility | TL 0323 3876 | Cross busy road in day light | M | L | Walk leader will remind walkers to be aware of vehicles before crossing. Support team with hi- viz may attend. |
| **Section 3 Ampthill to Woburn** | | |  |  |  |
| Millbrook, Sandhill Close | TL 0125 3863 | Cross busy road in daylight | M | L | Walk leader will remind walkers to be aware of vehicles before crossing. |
| Millbrook | TL 0130 3886 to  TL 0115 3889 | Walk along busy country lane with wide verge in day light. | M | L | Walk leader will remind walkers to be aware of vehicles, walk on verge as necessary |
| Broughton End | SP 9910 3803 | Cross quiet country lane in day light. | M | L | Walk leader will remind walkers to be aware of vehicles before crossing. |
| Broughton End | SP 9910 3803 to  SP 9910 3794 | Walk along quiet country lane with no path or verge in day light. | M | L | Walk leader will remind walkers to be aware of vehicles, walk to face on-coming traffic. |
| Ridgemont, High Street | SP 9767 3620 | Cross busy road in daylight | M | L | Walk leader will remind walkers to be aware of vehicles before crossing. |
| Nr Ridgemont, Cobblers Lane | SP 9900 3525 | Cross quiet country lane in day light. | M | L | Walk leader will remind walkers to be aware of vehicles before crossing. |
| Eversholt – Water End | SP 9876 3358 | Cross busy road in daylight | M | L | Walk leader will remind walkers to be aware of vehicles before crossing. |
| Eversholt, Church End | SP 9832 3248 to  SP 9817 3221 | Walk along village road with no path in day light. | M | L | Walk leader will remind walkers to be aware of vehicles, walk to face on-coming traffic. |
| **Section 4 Woburn to Leighton Buzzard Canal Bridge** | | |  |  |  |
| Woburn, George Street | SP 9505 3285 | Cross busy road in daylight | M | L | Walk leader will remind walkers to be aware of vehicles before crossing. |
| Woburn, Leighton Street | SP 9423 3282 | Cross busy road in daylight | M | L | Walk leader will remind walkers to be aware of vehicles before crossing. |
| Woburn, Road to Brickhill | SP 9389 3264 | Cross busy road in daylight | M | L | Walk leader will remind walkers to be aware of vehicles before crossing. |
| Nr Woburn, Sheep Lane | SP 9332 3105 to  SP 9330 3093 | Walk along village road with no path in day light. | M | L | Walk leader will remind walkers to be aware of vehicles, walk to face on-coming traffic. |
| Nr Brickhill, A5 road | SP 9275 3083 | Cross very busy road in twilight or dark | M | L | Walk Leader and back marker will wear Hi Viz and supervise walkers crossing road. Walkers to use torch/head torch |
| Nr Heath & Reach, Brickhill Road | SP 9173 2990 to  SP 9153 2985 | Walk along quiet country lane with narrow verge in the dark | M | L | Walk leader will remind walkers to be aware of vehicles, walk on verge as necessary, Walkers to use torch/head torch |
| Rushmere, Bragenham Lane | SP 9140 2774 | Cross quiet country lane in the dark | M | L | Walk leader will remind walkers to be aware of vehicles before crossing. Walkers to use torch/head torch |
| Rushmere, Old Linslade Road | SP 9140 2770 | Cross busy road in the dark | M | L | Walk leader will remind walkers to be aware of vehicles before crossing. Walkers to use torch/head torch |
| Nr Linslade, The Globe PH | SP 9111 2631 to  SP 9154 2506 | Walk along Grand Union Canal Towpath – potential trip hazards – mooring ropes, mooring pins and rings, close proximity to open water. | M | L | Walk leader to remind walkers of hazards and need for care. Walkers to use torch/head torch |
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| High Risk (Red) | This is an unacceptable risk. It cannot be accepted and must be reduced; if it is not possible to reduce then event cannot proceed. |
| Medium Risk (Yellow) | A significant risk exists. Action must be taken to reduce the risk, as far as reasonably practicable. |
| Low Risk (Green) | There exists a minimal, but acceptable risk. Risk is never totally eliminated, but is controlled within tolerable limits. |