

Name of Section or Activity	Explorer Scout Expeditions e.g. Chief Scout, DofE, Ten Tors (Training & Event)	Date of risk assessment	Current Versin: Under review March 2023, Original version 10 th October 2020	Name of who undertook this risk assessment	Derek Forward DESC (& Ten Tors Team Manager & DofE supervisors)	COVID-19 readiness level	Amber / Yellow / Green Green from 6 th Sept 2021
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Review Date	Review Reason / Comment
10 th October 2020	Initial version developed to include Covid-19 risks (Amber Covid-19 Readiness Level)
6 th September 2021	Reviewed prior to Ten Tors 2022 Training Period (Green Covid-19 Readiness Level), extended to include any expeditions including Duke of Edinburgh Award expeditions.
20 th October 2022	Reviewed prior to Ten Tors 2023 Training Period. The risks related to Covid-19 will remain in this document while Covid-19 is still circulating in the community.
March 2023	Under review – retrospectively after start of 2023 DofE Expedition Season.

Hazard Identified? / Risks from it?	Who is at risk?	How are the risks already controlled? What extra controls are needed?	What has changed that needs to be thought about and controlled?
<i>Hazard</i> – something that may cause harm or damage. <i>Risk</i> – the chance of it happening.	Young people, Leaders, Visitors?	Controls – Ways of making the activity safer by removing or reducing the risk from it. For example - you might use a different piece of equipment or you might change the way the activity is carried out.	Keep checking throughout the activity in case you need to change it...or even stop it! This is a great place to add comments which will be used as part of the review.
Covid-19 General (check against latest National Youth Agency / Scout Association guidance and readiness level)			
Vulnerable/shielding members/families exposed to COVID	YP, Leaders	Follow latest National Youth Agency / Scout Association guidance. It may ne necessary for members who fall within this description to remain excluded from activities at this time. Also, any YP in a school bubble that has been isolated must remain excluded from activities at this time.	
Maintaining social distance at drop off and pick up: higher risk of infection spread if social distancing not maintained.	YP, Leaders, Parents	Follow latest National Youth Agency / Scout Association guidance. Instructions may need to be included in activity details (calendar), stating locations and times in order to maintain social distancing – parents may not be permitted to leave vehicles unless required.	Latest National Youth Agency / Scout Association guidelines.
Maintaining social distance during meeting: higher risk of infection spread if social distancing not maintained.	YP, Leaders	Follow latest National Youth Agency / Scout Association guidance. It may be necessary to limit attendance to distinct groups of up to 15 YP (+ up to 5 adults per group) – names to be checked against “booked list”. With each groupd pre-notified where and when to arrive / depart. Where activities occur indoors then face coverings may need to be worn (according to latest guidance).	See separate sections in this document on Theory Sessions, Kit Checks and Walks for more information on their associated risks. Due to space constraints some activities may need their attendance numbers to be limited (e.g. First Aid Training).

Additional information can be found in the [Safety Checklist for Leaders and other information at scouts.org.uk/safety](https://scouts.org.uk/safety)

		Outdoor activities may need to maintain social distancing (according to latest guidance). Instructions to be included in activity details (calendar), and in required kit list, that all attendees are to bring their own face covering (for indoors or in emergency outdoors).	
Hygiene of people: higher risk of infection spread if proper hand washing not carried out.	YP, Leaders	Follow latest National Youth Agency / Scout Association guidance. It may be necessary for: Instructions to be included in activity details (calendar), and in required kit list, that all attendees are to bring their own hand sanitiser. Provided hand sanitizer will be available on arrival and departure at activities. When handling paperwork and payments received it is advised to sanitise hands immediately after.	
Hygiene of toilets: higher risk of infection spread if hygiene not carried out.	YP, Leaders	Follow latest National Youth Agency / Scout Association guidance. It may be necessary to limit access to toilets - only one person per male / female / disabled toilet at a time. Encourage hand washing (and/or sanitiser use if appropriate). Surfaces to be wiped down before meeting and materials provided to allow attendees to wipe before use. Toilet to be cleaned after the session.	Situation will vary with venue (see each explorer unit RA where an Explorer meeting place is being used for an event – each venue has its own approved cleaning policy so a leader from that unit should be present when their venue is being used).
Hygiene of activity equipment: Higher risk of infection spread if hygiene not carried out.	YP, Leaders	Follow latest National Youth Agency / Scout Association guidance. It may be necessary for: Identified individuals to access store areas to limit access and volume of equipment used. Activity equipment to be cleaned wherever possible) before and after use (e.g. map cases, maps, compasses, pens, pencils and any other 'team kit'). Equipment not to be used again within 3 days (hard surfaces) or 7 days (other surfaces), YP responsible for their own personal kit as per required kit list with no sharing of personal kit (e.g own water bottle, face covering, hand sanitiser etc.) Paper documents used for training only handled by persons who have sanitised their hands.	Where team kit is being used then when this is passed between individuals (e.g. map case and compass) an attempt should be made to sanitise the equipment.
Use of outdoor spaces: un-even ground, access to space less controlled, cannot be cleaned.	YP, Leaders	Follow latest National Youth Agency / Scout Association guidance. It may be necessary for: Where handwashing facilities are not available all must carry their own hand sanitiser and use frequently when touching less controlled items (e.g. when walking touching gates, stiles etc.)	See Training Walks section later in this document.
Use of Kitchen and Risk that water supply has not been flushed during lockdown	YP, Leaders	Follow latest National Youth Agency / Scout Association guidance. It may be necessary for: Kitchen to be out of bounds to all YP. All should bring their own drinks (filled bottle) and snacks. Unless it is known that water is regularly being used at the venue, any water from taps should be boiled or use bottled water from a safe venue (e.g. shop bought water). Opportunity to be taken to flush water system whilst at venues.	
Track and Trace	YP, Leaders	Follow latest National Youth Agency / Scout Association guidance. It may be necessary for: A register to be kept of who has attended each event (and which group they were in). In the (hopefully unlikely) event that someone gets the virus, these details will be passed to the appropriate authorities (including notifying District Commissioner) as part of the "track & trace" policy.	

		NHS QR code to be available to be scanned by NHS Covid-19 Track and Trace App.	
Members exposed to others in the community who may be virus carriers.	YP, Leaders, Others	Follow latest National Youth Agency / Scout Association guidance. It may be necessary for: Activity locations chosen have low volume of people present. Participants encouraged to maintain adequate social distancing space from other people they encounter. Where shared surfaces are touched ensure hand sanitiser is used.	
Social distancing cannot be maintained in the event of an emergency.	YP, Leaders	Follow latest National Youth Agency / Scout Association guidance. It may be necessary for: Assess emergency needs v social distancing requirement. Can the personal self-administer basic first aid? Ensure first aid kit is complete with good levels of non-latex gloves and face masks. All leaders and YP will carry their own Personal First Aid kit (as specified on required kit list) and their own face covering.	
Parents and Participants Meetings (Covid-19 considerations)			
Initial meeting: Large number of parents and participants gathering for information e.g. meeting about Ten Tors training and event .	YP, Leaders, Parents	From 6 st September 2021 Onwards we are not anticipating to be required to place any limits on these meetings but follow latest National Youth Agency / Scout Association guidance: The information meeting, about the registration, training, kit and selection for the event, is usually held indoors however it may be necessary to place a restriction on the number of people who can gather together for this meeting or for the meeting to be held online (using Zoom) where leaders, potential participants and their parents can safely join the meeting remotely.	Te be reviewed against latest guidance prior to event
Pre-Event meeting: Large number of parents and participants gathering for final information and instructions e.g. about the Ten Tors event.	YP, Leaders, Parents	From 6 st September 2021 Onwards we are not anticipating to be required to place any limits on these meetings but follow latest National Youth Agency / Scout Association guidance: This event is usually held indoors but due to the number of people, who would be gathering together, the latest guidance, at the time leading up to the meeting, would need to be followed. The guidance would determine whether this meeting could be face to face or online.	Te be reviewed against latest guidance prior to event
Theory Sessions (Covid-19 considerations)			
Theory Session: Group size restrictions due to Covid-19	YP, Leaders	From 6 st September 2021 Onwards we are not anticipating to be required to place any limits on these meetings but follow latest National Youth Agency / Scout Association guidance: Theory sessions are usually held indoors but due to Covid-19 restrictions (See Covid-19 General section earlier in this document) the number of people gathering together needs to be limited.	To be reviewed against latest guidance leading up to each theory session and communicated accordingly.

		<p>Considerations for running Theory Sessions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Those who have previously attended the equivalent theory session in a previous year could be excluded (or attend only where training or refresher is required), this would reduce the total number of participants. b) Depending on number of participants sessions could be run concurrently at different venues (possibly with an online linkup between venues) – participants told which venue to attend. c) It may be possible to run some training entirely online but that reduces the benefits gained from the practical exercises. d) The latest guidance, at the time leading up to the meeting, would need to be followed. This would determine whether the meeting could be held face to face or online. <p>Considerations for running First Aid Training Session:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Those who have previously attended the First Aid session in a previous year, together with any holding a current First Aid Qualification would be excluded to reduce the total number of participants. b) Current Scout Association guidance regarding the contents of the First Aid Training would need to be followed which may result in only theory parts of the course being taught with practical components covered at a later date (if possible). 	
Kit Checks (Covid-19 considerations)			
Kit Check: Group size restrictions due to Covid-19	YP, Leaders	<p>From 6th September 2021 Onwards we are not anticipating to be required to place any limits on these meetings but follow latest National Youth Agency / Scout Association guidance:</p> <p>Kit Check sessions are usually held indoors, alongside Theory sessions but due to Covid-19 restrictions (See Covid-19 General section earlier in this document) the number of people gathering together needs to be limited.</p> <p>Considerations for running Kit Checks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Those who have previously attended Kit Checks in a previous year, and we are confident that they have all the required kit, could be excluded (one check or final check would be required), this would reduce the total number of participants at some Kit Checks. b) Depending on number of participants Kit Checks could be run concurrently at different venues (following end of Theory Sessions) with each participant's kit checked individually (a few at a time) socially distanced with only the participant touching their own kit. c) As kit checks can only be performed effectively face to face it may be necessary to spread the checks over a number of hours, venues (or marquees) with participants being given venue and times for their check. 	To be reviewed against latest guidelines leading up to each Kit Check session and communicated accordingly.
Walks (including expeditions)			

<p>Transport to / from Walk/Expedition locations.</p>	<p>YP, Leaders, Parents</p>	<p>Transport of members to the walks/expeditions has always been the responsibility of the parents, with start and finish locations and times being published on the training calendar. Parents should ensure that they comply with the latest Covid-19 guidance on transporting people by cars (this may prevent car sharing between different households). Leaders may not be able to offer spaces in their cars to YP and leaders also need to follow latest Covid-19 guidance. To facilitate close supervision (shadowing) on training walks, leaders may sometimes need to share transport wearing appropriate face overerings.</p>	<p>To be reviewed against latest guidelines leading up to each walk / expedition.</p>
<p>Emergencies</p>	<p>YP, Leaders, Parents</p>	<p>YP permitted to carry mobile phones during training walks to use to contact leaders in emergency – leaders phone number available on route card or green card (emergency information) carried by walking group. YP needing first aid treatment should be able to use their own Personal First Aid Kit with leaders or Group Firt Aid kit as backup, If leader needs to give First Aid then appropriate protection should be worn by both Leader and YP (ideally face coverings for both and gloves for First Aider). First Aid guidance: a) DRS ABC should be ok if first aider wearing protective face covering and keeping a sensible distance / turning away. b) CPR suggest just the compressions with no breaths. c) For cuts, sprains etc. it is recommended that patient self-administers possibly guided / observed by an adult or first aider. In the case of emergency, when a YP needs to be taken from a walking group, a leader may transport a YP in the back of their car with both leader and YP wearing a face covering and ideally the windows open (or at least partially open) - The distance / time involved should be minimised by notifying parent of their need to be picked up thsir child early from the walk, with location of collection point to be communicated to the parent. (Safety of a YP overrides the safeguarding requirement for 2 adults to be present). Due to the potential need to isolate a YP we always have more adult leaders present at training than are needed to safely supervise the walking groups. Participants to be trained in Emergency Procedures and First Aid. Participants and Leaders should know the medical conditions of other members of their team and the treatment (information collected on medical information / permission forms) All participants to carry the required kit (kit check). Group should carry a first aid kit and each individual their own personal first aid kit and medications. At least one mobile phone should be carried by the group for emergency calls to the supervisor / assessor / emergency services (contact numbers on emergency contact card).</p>	<p>Leaders should also be carrying First Aid Kits.</p>
<p>Getting Lost</p>	<p>YP, Leaders</p>	<p>Training includes tuition in Navigation skills. Most routes have been used previously for training so leaders aware of difficulties which may be encountered. Each walking group carries compasses, maps marked with the route and route card with target timings and emergency contact information. Leaders shadow or checkpoint the routes ensuring the groups are keeping to the route at an appropriate pace.</p>	

		<p>Young Perople permitted to carry mobile phones during trining to keep leaders informed of location or ask for help if having difficulty navigating.</p> <p>Sufficient leaders and vehicles present to enable search for missing walking group.</p>	
Roads and Traffic	YP, Leaders	<p>Routes are chosen to minimise use of roads.</p> <p>Leader supervision where highway dangers are anticipated.</p> <p>It is expected that the Highway Code will be followed when using roads (walk single file on right of public roads, except where it would be safer on opposite side such as on grass verges, pavements or bends).</p> <p>When walking on roads, including using the military roads on Dartmoor, walking groups must be wearing at least 2 hi-vis vests (1 at front and 1 at back of group).</p> <p>When crossing major roads routes should be planned to use underpasses or crossings (where available).</p> <p>Participants should be trained in crossing the road safely, a usual technique is to line up in a place with good visibility and cross as a group.</p> <p>For busy roads e.g. A roads, the supervisor should risk assess the danger as part of their supervision plan and meet the group at the road.</p>	
Terrain / Environment	YP, Leaders	<p>Adequate training given to YP regarding navigation in the environments encountered: Local Footpaths , Long Distance footpaths, Open Country Navigation and High Moorland.</p> <p>Appropriate kit carried for the environments encountered – Pre-walk instructions will state what kit or full kit required and kit checks carried out.</p> <p>Participants to be briefing on descending hills safely e.g. using zig zags and ensure they walk, not run down hills.</p> <p>The Scout Association rules for Hillwalking to be followed when in high or remote terrain – ensure that the leadership team has at least the required number of leaders with Scout Accociation Hillwalking Qualifications to supervise these walking groups in remote areas.</p> <p>Tuition given on visibly recognising the route ahead, landscape, vegetation and rocky areas to select best route.</p>	
Behaviour	YP, Leaders	<p>It is expected that the Countryside Code will be followed – link to Countryside Code on forms and downloads page of CESD Ten Tors website.</p> <p>Participants to be that alcohol & drugs are not allowed, leaders to monitor.</p> <p>YP will be made aware of the Ten Tors rules or DofE Conditions which need to be copied with and clear ground rules set.</p> <p>YP are expected to follow all instructions given by leaders and noncompliance may result in an individual needing to be removed from the group and sent home.</p> <p>Groups to be adequately supervised (this may involve close or remote supervision) and the participants Behaviour to be monitored during training/practice.</p>	
Trips Slips and Falls	YP, Leaders	<p>All YP expected to be wearing walking boots (as per kit list) for all walks. Keeping bootlaces tied tightly reduces the risk of twisted ankles.</p> <p>All YP to carry own personal first aid kit – see also “Emergencies” row earlier in this section of the documnet.</p>	
Tiredness / illness	YP, Leaders	<p>If anyone arrives feeling unwell for any reason or showing symptoms of Covid-19 they must be sent home without starting the walk.</p>	

		<p>Training is progressive with the distances, difficulties and weight carried increasing as training progresses – YP should be able to cope with the progression.</p> <p>Check individual has been eating (food and snacks) and drinking enough.</p> <p>Should an individual need to drop out for any reason (including developing symptoms of Covid-19) they will need to be sent home early - see "Emergencies" row earlier in this section of the document.</p>	
Weather	YP, Leaders	<p>Prior to training walks leaders will check weather forecast for expected conditions and where extreme conditions expected either cancel walk, modify the route or warn participants about the extra precautions that may need to be taken.</p> <p><u>Cold / Wind Chill:</u> Kit list includes the requirement for warm clothing, warm, hat and gloves, adequate waterproofs (top and bottom).</p> <p><u>Strong Winds:</u> Where routes are exposed (e.g. high open/wild country or crossing bridges) risks of being blown over or off steep faces – if appropriate amend route to avoid exposed sections including on the day decision to alter route or start/finish location.</p> <p><u>Heat / Sun / Dehydration:</u> Kit list includes the requirement for sun hat and adequate water bottles and water purification. Sun block is also recommended on the kit list. Leaders carry extra water supplies in cars during training walks. Suggest taking lunch break in shade.</p> <p><u>Rain:</u> Kit list requires good waterproof jacket and trousers.</p> <p><u>River States:</u> Advised of dangers of crossing deep/fast rivers. Training includes safe river crossing techniques. When training on Dartmoor (and for Ten Tors event) the maps used have the rivers marked with where rivers can be safely crossed in different river states. Leaders will check rivers / forecast before training on Dartmoor and route amended accordingly.</p>	Weather forecasts should be checked prior to expedition but supervisors may need to make additional decisions during the expedition if conditions change or are more severe than anticipated.
Daylight Hours	YP, Leaders	<p>Some of our training walks are scheduled to finish after the end of daylight hours and on other walks, scheduled to finish during daylight hours, where a team is delayed for any reason they may finish in darkness - head torches are required kit for all walks.</p> <p>Some leaders are qualified in Night Navigation and Search techniques.</p>	
Livestock and other animals	YP, Leaders	<p><u>Livestock:</u> Walking group to stay together and pass through fields or areas of livestock calmly and quietly, diverting around livestock if necessary. Follow Countryside code and keep gates and property as you find them.</p> <p><u>Ticks:</u> Make all participants aware of dangers of Ticks (be tick aware leaflet available on forms and downloads page of website), and need to check themselves. Tick removal tweezers carried in leader's and in group first aid kit (sanitise whenever used). Keep legs covered on all training walks.</p> <p><u>Wild Animals:</u> Participants to be advised to stay away from Wild animals e.g. ponies, deer, wild boar etc.</p> <p><u>Adders:</u> Make participants aware that adders may be present in open country or moorland, although likelihood of encountering one is low as adders usually move away quickly if near people. A bite may be painful but it is extremely unlikely to be fatal. If bitten reassure casualty get them to lie down and keep still and raise affected limb – seek assistance. When training on Dartmoor leader in charge has contact number of local hospital on their phone.</p>	

Additional information can be found in the [Safety Checklist for Leaders and other information at scouts.org.uk/safety](#)

Planning , Experience	YP, Leaders	<p>For DofE Expeditions (and Chief Scout Award Expeditions) the participants will plan their route mark their maps and prepare full Route Cards which will be checked by Expedition Supervisor and for DofE Expeditions sent to the Expedition Assessor for approval.</p> <p>Expeditions will be notified to District: Using standard Nights Away Notification / Activity Notification for Ten Tors or Chief Scouts Award only activities and training and for DofE practice or qualifying expeditions using the Avon Scouts Activity Notification and submitting it to DofE@cesd.org.uk for expedition reference for expedition number to be allocated by Alan Bartlett (as county DofE advisor) and Derek Forward as District Explorers activities and nights away approval.</p> <p>For Ten Tors the walking routes are well planned in advance using the same or similar walks as those used in the past.</p> <p>There needs to be adequate supervision of the walking groups by leaders and where routes aare in remote or upland areas (terrain T1 or T2) there must be sufficient leaders holding the appropriate Hill walking adventurous activity permits – several of our leaders hold Hillwalking Qualifications and all leaders are experienced walkers / campers.</p> <p>Anyone helping with training undergoes the mandatory safeguarding checks.</p>	
Other Hazards	YP, Leaders	<p>Participants to be advised to stay away from unsafe structures / mines / rock faces.</p> <p>Participants to be advised to stay away from military debris on military training areas such as Dartmoor.</p> <p>On open country participants to be advised to not just follow their map but visually assess the route ahead and select an appropriate route avoiding obstacles and select routes through appropriate vegetation avoiding the rocks, gorse and boggy areas etc.</p>	
Extra considerations for Dartmoor Ten Tors Training	YP, Leaders	<p>Register Dartmoor Training walks on Ten Tors Team Managers Dashboard.</p> <p>Teams to carry Team Identification numbers and Green Card emergency information.</p> <p>Teams may get scrutinised by official Ten Tors scrutineers so they need to be fully aware of the rules, their routes, their kit and their escape routes (ensure escape routes are on route card) - Training sessions and Kit Checks will have prepared them for this.</p> <p>Ten Tors supplied maps are used which are marked with river state information and out of bounds areas.</p> <p>Bird Nesting areas are marked as out of bounds areas on the maps to protect their environment.</p> <p>Unexploded Ordnance – Dartmoor is a military training area so unexploded ordnance surfaces occasionally; it may be dangerous so DO NOT TOUCH - mark the area and give a grid reference and inform the Army (contact details on green card). Do not touch any metal objects on dartmoor (it's a local by-law).</p>	
Ten Tors Training Weekends / DofE Expeditions			
Walking	As per Training Walks above	As per Training Walks above	
Camping	YP, Leaders	Current Covid-19 readiness guidelines permit camping so expedition samping e.g. DofE and Ten Tors are expected to proceed as planned.	Review well in advance of each Training Weekend and communicate changes accordingly.

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		<p>Follow latest National Youth Agency / Scout Association guidance: If camping is not permitted under the guidance at the time then how the Ten Tors event is run is likely to be modified (see Ten Tors Event section later in this document). If camping is limited to individuals (or households) per tent then extra tents may need to be provided at camping locations. If camping is banned then the following may need to be considered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Training weekends / expeditions may need to become single day training walks (with option of returning home overnight between each day) b) Training schedule may need to change to have 4 individual days on Dartmoor instead of 2 weekends on Dartmoor. <p><u>Out of season expeditions</u> can encounter colder and more severe weather conditions than usually expected during the core DofE expedition season from end of March to end of October. Where out of season expeditions are being run e.g. for Ten Tors training then use the higher specification Ten Tors kit list rather than the lower specification usually used for DofE especially for sleeping bags and clothing.</p>	
Stove Safety	YP, Leaders	<p>All participants to receive training in the safe use of stove and be supervised before being allowed to use remotely. Stoves must never be used in tents. Participants should also use the handle to avoid burns and know treatment. Gas bottles should be used the correct way round and never turned upside down. Other fuels are not suitable e.g. solid fuel, petrol, gas without screw fittings etc.</p>	
Food and Water	YP, Leaders	<p>Kit list states the minimum requirement for food, snacks and water. Expedition food e.g. pre-pack/dehydrated should be used instead of fresh meat/products which can go off. Water should be from a clean drinking water source. In remote areas where water is collected from streams the water should be collected from as high as possible flowing stream and treated with water treatment tablets before consumption (according to guidance with the tablets).</p>	
Ten Tors Event (annually in May)			
Ten Tors Event (May)	YP, Leaders, Parents	<p>Ten Tors is run by the Army whose Rules need to be followed with the event being run or modified according to their Risk Assessment of the conditions and guidance leading up to the event. How the Ten Tors event will be run will be communicated closer to the date of the event and will need to be reviewed against The Scout Association (and National Youth Agency) guidance, leading up to the event, to confirm whether we can participate. The Army are contingency planning, depending on how the Covid-19 situation progresses and as guidance changes which could result in changes to the running of the event or the event being cancelled.</p>	<p>Te be reviewed prior to payment for the event being due in January and again before the event in April.</p>

Related Documents / Links:

DofE: www.dofe.org (for latest guidance, DofE kit list)

Ten Tors Rules available from [Army Ten Tors Website](#) and their page with latest updates on how [Covid-19](#) affects the Ten Tors event and training.

Scout Association Hill Walking Guidance – see: [Scout Association Hillwalking](#). Scout Association Latest update on how [Coronavirus](#) affects Scouting activities.

Additional information can be found in the [Safety Checklist for Leaders](#) and other information at scouts.org.uk/safety



Kit List and other CESD Ten Tors Documents available from [forms and downloads page of cesd.org.uk/TenTors](https://cesd.org.uk/TenTors) website.