Risk assessment

Name of activity, event, and location	Explorer Scout Ten Tors Training Hikes, Expedition Weekends & Event	Date of risk assessment	17/Oct/2026	Name of person doing this risk assessment	Steve Martin
		Date of next review	17/Oct/2027		

What could go wrong? What hazard have you identified? What are the risks from it?	Who is at risk?	What are you going to do about it? How are the risks already controlled? What extra controls are needed? How will they be communicated to young people and adults and remain inclusive to all needs?	Review & revise What has changed that needs to be thought about and controlled?
A hazard is something that may cause harm or damage. **The risk** is the harm that may occur from the hazard.	For example: young people, adult volunteers, visitors	**Controls** are ways of making the activity safer by removing or reducing the risk. For example, you may use a different piece of equipment, or you might change the way you do the activity.	Keep **checking** throughout the activity in case you need to change what you're doing or even **stop** the activity. This is a great place to add comments which will be used as part of the review.
Transport: 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.			
Late arrivals: Resulting in delays to start risking safety due to late finish, or of safeguarding issue with leader being left alone with YP.	All	WhatsApp groups allow communication with parents and young people. Late arrivals can be accommodated by arranging a suitable alternative drop off part way into a hike, holding back a training team at the start (Necessary for training separation anyway) or leaving a leader or two at the start to guide the late comer(s) to where they need to be. Calendar entries contain Google pins to provide accurate Sat Nav capability to assist parents on transportation route.	
Parking problems: Resulting in risk of injury due to vehicle collision with people or property.	All	Some drop off and pick up locations are unavoidably short of space either through busy carparks or remote location. Most routes will not have this situation, but where they do, instruction for drop off and go will be given to minimise disruption to local traffic.	

Risk assessment

Hikes : Including Expedition hikes			
Getting lost: Resulting in risk of straying into dangerous situations such as cliff edges, bodies of water, deep bogs, busy roads etc.	YP, Leaders	Early walks will be shadowed by leaders ensuring route corrections can be applied directly. Training includes tuition in Navigation skills. Each hike team carries compasses, maps marked with the route and route card with target timings and emergency contact information. As hike experience improves more remote supervision will be employed with leaders meeting teams at checkpoints usually around 30-60 minute intervals depending on complexity of route sector and intercept access. YP instructed to report location if no leader observed within an hour. WhatsApp group can be used to send live location. What 3 Words can also be used to get a location which can be view with a better quality of mapping. A phone call can be used to instruct YP in describing their location including Triangulation on visible landmarks. GPS trackers provided to a member of each group, with multi-network SIM to ensure good network coverage. Leaders can track position of groups so that where it is judged that a correction needs to be made for safety reasons the team can be contact by mobile phone. Sufficient leaders and vehicles present to enable search for missing walking group.	In future more advanced trackers using satellite connectivity could be investigated to mitigate the risk that current trackers using mobile phone networks could still have blackspots in very remote locations.
Injuries	All	YP are permitted to carry mobile phones during all training hikes enabling them to contact leaders in an emergency. YP needing first aid should be able to use their own Personal First Aid kit with leaders or the Group first aid kit as back up. As part of the Training all participants who have not previously completed the Young Leader First aid module will attend a training session during January of each Ten Tors training cycle. Injuries requiring dropping out of a hike will involve the parent being informed and a location arranged for collection. If the distance is great the injured party will need to be transported along the route in a leader vehicle to a checkpoint timed to coincide with the travel time of the parent. While we will ensure enough vehicles and leaders are available it would not be practical to leave a leader back at the incident site in some cases for 2 hours. Leaders are aware of location of closest hospital with A&E department as this is provided on leader checkpoint route cards.	
Roads and Traffic incidents	YP, Leaders	Routes are chosen to minimise use of roads. Leader supervision where highway dangers are anticipated. 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). 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). When crossing major roads routes should be planned to use underpasses or crossings (where available).	

Risk assessment

		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. 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.	
Misinterpreting Terrain / Environment resulting in straying into dangerous areas such as cliff edges, steep slopes, bogs, bodies of water.	YP, Leaders	Adequate training given to YP regarding navigation in the environments encountered: Local footpaths, Long Distance footpaths, Open Country Navigation and High Moorland. Appropriate kit carried for the environments encountered – Pre-walk instructions will state what kit or full kit required and kit checks carried out. Participants to be briefing on descending hills safely e.g. using zig zags and ensure they walk, not run down hills. The Scout Association rules for Hillwalking to be followed when in high or remote terrain – ensure that the leadership leam has at least the required number or leaders with Scout Association Hillwalking Qualifications to supervise these walking groups in remote areas. Tuition given on visibly recognising the route ahead, landscape, vegetation and rocky areas to select best route.	
Unacceptable behaviour resulting in: Injury to participants or public. Damage to propetry. Damage to reputation of group.	YP, Leaders	It is expected that the Countryside Code will be followed – link to Countryside Code on forms and downloads page of CESD Ten Tors website. Participants to be made aware that alcohol, smoking, vaping & drugs are not allowed, leaders to monitor. YP will be made aware of the Ten Tors rules or DofE Conditions which need to be complied with and clear ground rules set. 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. Groups to be adequately supervised (this may involve close or remote supervision) and the participants behaviour to be monitored during training/practice.	
Trips, Slips and Falls resulting in injury.	YP, Leaders	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. All YP to carry own personal first aid kit – see also “Injuries” row earlier in this section of the document.	
Tiredness / illness	YP, Leaders	Training is progressive with the distances, difficulties and weight carried increasing as training progresses – YP should be able to cope with the progression. Check individual has been eating (food and snacks) and drinking enough. Should an individual need to drop out for any reason they will need to be sent home early kit – see also “Injuries” row earlier in this section of the document. Group members trained on looking for signs of hypothermia and instructed to contact leaders if team mates are suffering from any illness or tiredness that is imparing their ability to continue,	
Weather factors	YP, Leaders	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. Cold / Wind Chill: Kit list includes the requirement for warm clothing, warm, hat and gloves, adequate waterproofs (top and bottom).	Weather forecasts should be checked prior to expedition but supervisors may need to make additional decisions during the expedition is conditions change or are more severe than anticipated.

Risk assessment

		Strong Winds: 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. Heat / Sun / Dehydration: 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. Fog: This provides additional challenges and can be experienced on the event. Early hikes are on public rights of way so navigation is straight forward. Later hikes Navigation experience and classroom training will ensure a good knowledge of how to navigate in low visibility. Rain: Kit list requires good waterproof jacket and trousers. River States: 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.	
Walking into darkness	YP, Leaders	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.	
Encountering livestock and other animals	YP, Leaders	Livestock: 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. Ticks: 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. Wild Animals: Participants to be advised to stay away from Wild animals e.g. ponies, deer, wild boar etc. Adders: 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. Pet dogs: Ensure a healthy wariness of unfamiliar pets is encouraged.	
Poor planning, Limited walker experience	YP, Leaders	For Ten Tors the walking routes are well planned in advance using the same or similar walks as those used in the past. There needs to be adequate supervision of the walking groups by leaders and where routes are in remote or upland areas (terrain T1 or T2) there must be sufficient leaders holding the appropriate Hill walking adventurous activity permits. Anyone helping with training undergoes the mandatory safeguarding checks.	

Risk assessment

Physical hazards: Derelict buildings, Rivers, Ponds, Lakes, Caves, Mines, Quarries, Fallen trees	YP, Leaders	Participants will be briefed before each walk of any hazards they may encounter and reminded to keep away from and walk around hazards. If a hazard is impassable safely, they will be instructed to call the leader in charge for direction. This may result in turning back or instructed in a safe route to a meeting point or way around the obstacle.	
Open country hazards:	YP, Leaders	Footpaths on the ground may deviate from the map: Training to be used to ensure the terrain is assessed for obstacles by the participant team members and any close supervisors on route to ensure an efficient route is walked at all times. Bracken and Gorse: Train the participants to ensure they choose a route around difficult to traverse vegetation.	
Dartmoor hazards: Military debris, Bogs, Dry stone walls, Tor rocks River/Stream crossing, Firing Ranges	YP, Leaders	Military debris: It is a requirement of Ten Tors management that all Military debris spotted is not disturbed but marked and the location reported. Participants will be instructed in this procedure. Bogs: As with all other terrain hazards a route around should where possible be found, Dry stone walls: Stiles are in place for safe crossing of walls. The Ten Tors maps have clear markings of permitted wall crossing points to ensure no additional damage is caused. Tor Rocks: Participants will be reminded that climbing up the rocks at the Tors is not permitted on safety grounds. River/stream crossing: Dartmoor is crossed by many streams and rivers, inevitably these will be encountered and need to be crossed. The Ten Tors maps have detailed information on safe crossing points and sections at various river states. Participants will be instructed in where to and how to safely cross running water. Firing Range: The MOD firing range times will be assessed in the weeks leading up to a training session allowing time to adjust the route is necessary.	
Fire Risks: Wild Fires, stove use	YP, Leaders	Wild fires: Recent years dry conditions make the risk of encountering burnt or burning scrub higher. Routes will be adjusted based on information gathered from Dartmoor national parks, rangers and the Ten tors operations alerts Stove use: Stove use shall be instructed use on large rocks away from any vegetation. Use of cold lunches will be encouraged.	
Hike - Remote Supervision: Support vehicles			
Traffic Accidents	Leaders	If involved, treat them as any normal collision, however, inform other leaders out supervising of the situation. If not involved or witnessed and you can confirm there is enough other public support then the participating Explorers on the hike take priority.	
Lack of checkpoint parking	Leaders	While every effort is made to ensure checkpoints have room to park, some locations will have limited or no space. Leader Google pin mapped checkpoint and strategic interim point sheets will be provided for all walks. These will include instructions and details on any knowledge of restricted parking situations.	
Narrow, steep, rutted, flooded, icy roads.	Leaders	The sheets noted in previous row will contain notes on known road trouble spots with guidance on suitability for vehicle types.	

Risk assessment

Tired drivers resulting in accident	Leaders	Leaders to ensure they have prepared sufficiently for a whole day or weekend of driving. Rest time should be taken when possible if signs of tiredness start to show. Some training has longer travel time, leaders need to be prepared and take breaks on journeys when necessary.	
Camping: Pre-training night and Expedition condition night during training			
Incorrect gas stove usage resulting in fire, burns/scalds or carbon monoxide poisoning	YP, Leaders	All participants to receive training in the safe use of stoves and will 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 how to treat a burn if necessary. Gas bottles should be used the correct way round and never turned upside down. JetBoil Flash stoves or equivalent will be the source of expedition cooking.	
Poor Food hygiene resulting in food poisoning.	YP, Leaders	Pre expedition food will be a group meal where location allows - see expedition section below for detailed food hygiene. Hand washing will be advised. YP Pre-packaged expedition food that can be eaten cold or heated will be used in JetBoils for cleanliness, reduced risk of food poisoningand for ease.	
Weather considerations resulting in injury or discomfort due to cold, high winds or wet weather	YP, Leaders	Low Temperatures: Ten Tors requirements are for a sleeping bag Limit rating of at least as low as -2 degrees sleeping bags, no others will be accepted for training or the event. Clothing requirements of the Ten Tors kit list are also geared towards low temperature conditions. High winds: Tents used shall be of a type designed to withstand winds. Pitching training will include coping with windy conditions to ensure no part of the tent or its bags are lost to the wind. Rain: Tent quality will be suitable for all UK rain conditions. Shelter for outdoor cooking where possible will be available.	
Excess noise	YP, Leaders	Everyone will be instructed on a curfew time, noise levels will be monitored after this with warnings given for failing to be quiet.	
Ten Tors Event: From Establishing camp (usually early Thursday Morning) to Leaving Site on Sunday (Generally afternoon or early)			
Ten Tors Event	YP, Leaders, Parents	Ten Tors is run by the Army whose Rules need to be followed with the event being run according to their Risk Assessment. Operation is under their rules from arrival at site on Thursday to leaving on Sunday.	
Early arrival	Leaders	Overnight travel: Leaders volunteering to take part in the 'Dawn raid' on Okehampton Camp will need to make their own arrangements to be at camp before 6am to ensure they are ready to set camp. Land grab: This can sometimes be a bit of a race, a leader is required to move quickly to ensure the plan can be accomplished. Consideration of terrain is needed while traversing the camp field. Pre planning of location and layout of camp will aid smooth acquisition of the required space in the land grab. This is an intensive morning pitching Tents and Mess tent, the leader team need to work together to ensure this is completed safely.	

Risk assessment

Mess tent Safety considerations	Leaders, YP	Fire risks: Gas burners to be placed a suitable distance from the canvas. Tables used for burners shall be stable with legs securely opened. Fire extinguisher, fire blanket and fire bucket to be located near the cooking area at all times. Gas safety: Hoses are to be checked before loading and when set up. Regulators to be inspected on every connection. Gas cylinders are to be positioned outside of the mess tent. Mess tent to be open when any gas is in use. High winds: the mess tent needs to be pegged for high wind usage. Safe access in high winds needs to take into account the effect of openings from the windward direction.	
Friday participant and full leader team arrival	YP, Leaders, Parents	The camp site is home to around 4000 people on Friday. (2400 participants plus additional support staff) Our camp location will be published on our communication channels as a map and What 3 words location. Photos of the primary on foot approach route will also be published to assist location recognition.	
Food hygiene	YP. Leaders	Contamination: Food to be stored in closed containers when not being used. Coolboxes are to be used for all perishables, raw and cooked meats are to be in separate coolboxes. Hand wash station to be set up outside a distance from the mess tent. Ideally Friday meal will be pre-prepared. Any raw meats to be handled and prepared using separate kitchen equipment. No food shall be left out unattended. Dish washing area also set up a distance from the mess tent. Drinking water to be clearly identifiable. Food waste to be binned outside of the mess tent. Allergies: Any allergies or dietary needs should be provided in advance on the permission form. Additional hand washing when necessary to avoid any contamination. Separate food preparation area and equipment shall be used to ensure allergy contamination risk is removed.	
Cooking	YP, Leaders	Note: for Ten Tors,, due to the nature of the activity, Leaders will be the only ones involved in preparing and cooking food on the event site. Burns: from hot surfaces, gas flame, boiling water or cooking oil. Kitchen area shall be under the control of a lead cook. Access to this area shall be limited during cooking times. No Explorer will enter the area. Knife use: Knives need to be clean, dry and sharp to be used safely. Leaders involved in food preparation should be aware of safe use of a knife. Any kitchen knives used must be cleaned and put away when finished with. No kitchen knives are to be left in a washing up bowl.	
Missing team members on site	YP. Leaders	Mobile reception has improved in recent years aiding location of missing members. On Friday Team members will be given particular times to check in and shown muster location(s) to be used on the Saturday hike to the start line.	

Risk assessment

Engagement village	YP, Leaders	This is an opportunity for all to understand what the army do. We will advise participants to stay in groups while visiting the engagement village and recommend each group arranges a meeting place should they get separated. Mobile phones can be used to contact the leader team should it be necessary.	
Friday mass gathering of participants	YP	Every year a gathering 'swarm' of participants occurs, we will advise care to be taken by our participants to avoid any injuries resulting from taking part in the gathering.	
Saturday march to start line	YP, Leaders	Team separation: A leader will accompany each team to the start. A regroup location will be advised on Friday afternoon to avoid separated team members. A visit to the start line will be used to assist knowledge of actual start position.	
Event Start to Collection	YP	Once the teams start they are entirely under the army's control, we have no involvement until they are returned to us either as drop outs or across the finish line.	
Spectating Start and Finish	Parents, Leaders	Parents are managed by the army regarding spectating; we will advise on the suitable time of arrival of parents for start and finish. Parents will be advised not to visit camp before the start on Saturday to ensure the teams members are focused on the task. Parents may visit us at camp any time after that until we leave.	
Return of participants	YP, Leaders, Parents	Once the participating team has been signed back over to us, they are expected to be returned to parents as soon as possible. Parents need to inform us of collection arrangements should they not plan to be at the finish to ensure no one is left behind.	

Don't forget, as part of your programme planning, you should have contingency activities in reserve just in case you can't do what was planned or you need to stop half way through. Make sure this is shared with those involved, so everyone knows how to respond. You should have risk assessed contingency activities prior to them taking place and communicated key information to those involved as with all activities.