

## Wildcountry consultants walking expeditions generic risk assessment

The risk assessment detailed below is a generic one for expeditions at all levels of the DofE award and is not an out of country expedition risk assessment which by its nature will be very different.

The risk assessment is owned by all participants on the expedition, Instructors, 3rd Party visitors and participants. It is not as documented below site specific and is by its nature dynamic, due to the many factors that influence the situation.

The following factors must be carefully controlled to ensure that risk is minimised to all:

The expedition area must be appropriate to the ability of the group, this should be assessed prior to and during the expedition. Changing conditions must also be accounted for as this may considerably change the risk involved.

The participants level of fitness and equipment may also contribute significantly to the risks involved. Thorough equipment checks will be carried out prior to the expedition and participants fitness levels will be assessed as part of the on going risk assessment. Where deemed appropriate some participants may be withdrawn from the expedition for their own and the groups safety.

Whilst every care will be taken at all times by our instructors to minimise the risk, the DofE expedition, especially at Gold qualifying requires that group contact be minimal and that supervision ( unless at unavoidable high risk sites) be kept as remote as safety will allow. Participants will be made aware of the duty of care they have to themselves and to the other team members. Pre expedition briefings will emphasise emergency procedures and on going assessments to the appropriate level of supervision will be made by our instructors as the expedition progresses.

WILDCOUNTRY CONSULTANTS - SUMMARY OF RISK FOR WALKING EXPEDITIONS			
Group name			
venue			
activity			
inspected by:			
Through thorough briefings, advice and encouragement for participants on Wildcountry Consultants activities we hope to minimise the risk to participants involved to acceptable levels.			
Participants are fully briefed on emergency procedures and are carrying all of the group kit and information that they require to cope in the event of an incident arising from any or a combination of the following.			
Hazards identified	Hazard component	Controls put in place	Further controls req.
road and railway crossings	timing	route plans safety briefings check points	close supervision on busy/ main roads
loose rock, wet rock, steep rock, big drops, boulder fields vegetation, scree.	landscape	route plans safety briefings appropriate footwear	remote supervision in wilderness areas daily briefings by supervisor
water	landscape	route plans safety briefing route finding	close supervision wet weather alternative

**WILDCOUNTRY CONSULTANTS - SUMMARY OF RISK FOR WALKING EXPEDITIONS**

nightfall	timing	training briefings head torches	supervision checked in to camp
bad weather	timing	alternative routes navigation training supervision kit check	check forecast daily alter routes if req.
unfit	people	briefings/training	assess fitness at check points alter routes adjust loads
poor/non equipment	people	kit list/briefings kit check	kit check/inadequate/ missing kit replaced limit/refuse participation
stoves	people	safety training supervised until competent. burns training	fuel kept separate from stoves in use. vigilance first aid kit available
navigation problems	people	training/supervision checkpoints	relocation techniques used at checkpoints/extra training given if required
other people	people	safety briefings	
over ambitious	people	route plans briefings	monitored by leader route alterations
illness	people	briefings: personal hygiene, food hygiene. First aid kit and protocols carried by group hospital contacts home contacts	emergency procedures in place supervisor available casualty visit spare tent taken for isolation purposes parental collection
behaviour	people	code of conduct briefings discipline procedure	clear expectations given parental collection
medical condition	people	paperwork/informed medication available staff/group informed	emergency procedures in place actions advised
poor diet	people	training briefings food checked	buddy system used supervisor informed
drugs/alcohol	people	code of conduct briefings discipline procedure	monitored daily by supervisor
low morale	people	supervision encouragement	daily checks buddy system used

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comments: risks specific to current expedition (Site specific risk assessment)

## Wildcountry Consultants Leader Incident Plan

