

HUDDERSFIELD GEOLOGY GROUP

Risk Assessment: General field trip

For all field visits, members (and any visitors) are expected to have sufficient clothing and in particular footwear, to cope with any potential change in ground conditions and weather. If the group leader considers any person in the group to be inadequately prepared on the day they will be entitled to request that person not to join the trip or to not allow them to join a particular part of the trip. Members and visitors should be aware that the group is frequently led by members and/or members of associate bodies who do not have any first aid training.

Similarly sufficient food and drink should be brought for the outlined circumstances of the field trip and according to your individual circumstances. (Assume a packed lunch is required for all-day trips unless advised otherwise).

Members and any visitors are expected to be always aware of when they may not be capable of walking over particular ground or distance and excuse themselves from that part of the trip as appropriate depending on their circumstances. They should also ensure that they do not become separated from the group and notify the trip leader if there is any difficulty.

Poor visibility may heighten any of the Hazardous situations and may occur at any time; to help in such situations any member who possesses fluorescent jackets, gilets, strips, cross belts and/or torches/headlamps are encouraged to always pack them in rucksacks when attending field trips.

Individual risk assessments will be made available for each field trip according to individual circumstances, either in advance on the day of the trip itself, particularly for marine, quarry and mining/mined sites.

Nature of HAZARD	CURRENT PRECAUTIONS	ESTIMATION OF RISK	POSSIBLE ADDITIONAL PRECAUTIONS
Dehydration/Sunstroke	Ensure that you are properly equipped for any hot-weather forecast. Wear hats, long-sleeved, high necked shirts and trousers or bring them with you to cover up. Apply high factor sun protection cream, before and during trip. Ensure that you have sufficient water with you and can access more at the end of the trip. Ensure you raise any headache or excessive sweating with the group leader.	Severity of Hazard: HIGH Likelihood: LOW if following precautions Adequacy of Controls: MEDIUM – dependant on individual's precautions	Trip leader may cancel all or part of the trip if weather forecast is exceptional. As above the trip leader may consider whether or not individuals have made adequate preparation for the trip depending on forecast for the day. The trip leader to advise of any additional likelihood of risk in the separate risk assessment eg heat from quarry walls, reflection from sea/lakes.

Wind chill/Exposure	Ensure that you are properly equipped for any cold weather and winter conditions including heavy rain/strong winds. Have layered clothing, preferably with a top layer of wind-cheating, waterproof material, including legs if appropriate. Carry and wear hat and gloves as appropriate. Carry a hot, drink and emergency ration of chocolate/sugar intense bar. Ensure you raise any feeling of extreme cold/loss of feeling in hands or feet with group leader.	Severity of Hazard: HIGH Likelihood: LOW if following precautions Adequacy of controls: MEDIUM – dependant on individual’s precautions.	Trip leader may cancel all or part of the trip if the weather forecast is exceptional. As above the trip leader may consider whether or not individuals have made adequate preparation for the trip. The leader may consider the need for access to a warm café or pub at the end of the trip when preparing for the trip.
Rock falls/slides	Approach steep faces, especially where there is loose matter with extreme caution and in sight of others who know what you intend. Hard hats must be worn if advised. Longer slopes with soft material that may become waterlogged and slide are also sites of danger. The default is not to approach such faces.	Severity of Hazard: HIGH Likelihood: LOW if following precautions. Adequacy of Controls: GOOD	Trip leaders to assess safety of site beforehand and to warn of need for hard hats. Also to consider previous/forecast weather conditions eg heavy rain in previous days which may give rise to slope slippage/days of extreme frost and thaw making loose debris more likely and warn/forbid approach to slope accordingly.
SLIPS, TRIPS, FALLS	Adequate enclosed footwear must be worn (preferably thick, gripped soles and weather and soil-proof upper surface). Safety boots or at least hard upper surface desirable in industrial and quarry situations. Particular attention must be paid to rough ground – of any sort, including moorland, rocky beaches, seaweed, sink holes, old mine workings, grassed over Karst etc. Also after rain/snow where slippery surfaces and	Severity of Hazard: MEDIUM Likelihood: LOW if precautions are followed Adequacy of Control: MEDIUM	Individual trip risk assessment to address any particular hazardous ground, cliff edges, eroded pathways etc.

	<p>puddles/snow concealing holes are likely. Individuals should stay within sight of other members.</p> <p>NB An individual is responsible for checking where they are walking and their foot placement.</p>		
DUST inhalation/Grit abrasion	<p>Likely in dry conditions and high winds. If these are thought possible individuals may consider bringing scarves/goggles, long sleeves/gloves/trousers etc. If thought likely due to recent weather conditions trip leader should cancel trip or part of trip where these conditions are likely.</p>	<p>Severity of Hazard: MEDIUM Likelihood: LOW Adequacy of Control: GOOD</p>	See individual risk assessment for trip
Deep Water/Strong Currents	<p>Quarries may have bottom-filled lakes; these are well-signed (or fenced off) and individuals should not approach them. Some river cliff exposures can/should only be approached in low/slow water conditions – assessment to be made on the day and according to previous days' rainfall/days forecast. Care to be taken on crossing any bridges in extreme weather conditions.</p>	<p>Severity of Hazard – HIGH Likelihood: LOW if controls are followed. Adequacy of Control: GOOD</p>	See individual risk assessment for trip
Moving Plant/Cars	<p>Most visits to working quarries will have separate risk assessments which should be followed. There may be other occasions though where moving plant/cars are encountered. Extreme care should be taken especially around plant where sight lines can be difficult. The group should gather and move as a group in such circumstances. The</p>	<p>Severity of Hazard: HIGH Likelihood: MEDIUM if controls are followed Adequacy of Control: MEDIUM; dependant on availability of light/fluorescents through individuals.</p>	As above for poor visibility, members of the group who possess fluorescent jackets/gilets/bands/cross-straps and torches/headtorches should consider always having them available in rucksacks on field trips to help address any such unexpected encounters.

	<p>driver of plant should be made aware of the group's presence and should indicate where and when the group may pass to get round the plant. If the group has to cross a busy road they should consider doing so in groups of a line of four at a time – if there is no available zebra/pelican crossing. Walking along roads with no pavement should be in single line on the left of the road (ie the group acts as a vehicle or horse using the road.) Fluorescent markings and/or lights (white at front red at rear) should be used whenever available and especially in poor visibility.</p>		
Reviewed: September 2022			