

Visit to Richmond Castle, July 10th 2025
Risk Assessment

Location: Open air venue	Assessment date: June 2025	Review: As needed
Benefits of the activity: Visiting an historical monument provides an interesting and educational experience. Additionally, walking in the countryside enables people with disabilities to experience activity, stimulation and achievement. It has both physical and mental health benefits. For some it may be the only physical activity in which they participate.		
Those affected:	A: walkers with disabilities	B: leaders & helpers
		C: parents, carers.

Hazards	Affected	Hazards	Affected
Ruinous nature of Castle	A, B, C	Manual Handling Risks	B,C
Riverside walk	A,B,C	Physical limitation	A,C
Weather conditions	A, B,C	Medical problems	A
Harmful vegetation	A	Lost member of group	A, B, C

Hazard (as above)	Explanatory details	Precautions taken to reduce risk	Risk H,M,L
General group management – Members becoming detached from supervised group, possible whereabouts unknown	Need to ensure continued care and oversight for whole time members are in the care of HOAA helpers and carers irrespective of any organized activity. Need to ensure members not detached from group.	Many members with special needs are under the oversight of a responsible carer depending on ability and independence but it is the responsibility of ALL helpers and carers to make every effort to exercise care for all participants. No member with special needs is to be permitted to leave the group alone. Regular head count	L
Hazards at the Castle	a. Climbing hazards; Uneven and slippery paths; floor surfaces are uneven throughout; Old, uneven steps and staircases. b. There is a well by the curtain walls near Robin Hood's Tower bounded by low walls and covered with a metal grate. c. Banks and ditches around the site,	Carers/parents should ensure participants have suitable footwear. No climbing on castle walls will be permitted. Group orienteering event will not include the Tower. Access to the Tower for those who wish it and can do so safely will be offered after the group activity. Keep to defined trails. Walkers with poor balance to be supervised individually & reminded to <i>walk carefully</i> . Carers, leaders and helpers should offer hand/arm support where necessary, or encourage walkers to hold each other's hands.	M

Hazard (as above)	Explanatory details	Precautions taken to reduce risk	Risk H,M,L
	<p>some of which are steep; steep cliffs overlooking the river which are fenced and signed.</p> <p>d. Access to/from the roof area is by a narrow, steep, stone staircase.</p> <p>e. There will be other visitors on site</p>	<p>Carry basic first aid kit.</p> <p>Adequate supervision at all times.</p>	
Hazards on Riverside walk	<p>Muddy paths and rocks, loose gravel and tree roots protruding from path. Slips/trips, fall from edge of path. Potential for severe-Head and limb injuries</p>	<p>Carers/parents should ensure participants have suitable footwear.</p> <p>Leader must choose most suitable route.</p> <p>Keep to defined trails.</p> <p>Walkers with poor balance to be supervised individually & reminded to <i>walk carefully</i>. Carers, leaders and helpers should offer hand/arm support where necessary, or encourage walkers to hold each other's hands.</p> <p>Carry basic first aid kit.</p>	L
Weather conditions	<p>Outdoor environment.</p> <p>Strong wind, rain</p> <p>Sunburn.</p>	<p>Parents/carers should ensure participants have appropriate protective clothing.</p> <p>Check weather forecast. Find less exposed routes if possible.</p> <p>Cancel or amend if too strong wind or too cold</p> <p>Advise to carry sun cream, if appropriate.</p>	L
Harmful vegetation	<p>Potentially harmful plants on Castle site and on walk route, including some with thorns that can irritate the skin, or be harmful if ingested.</p>	<p>Supervision.</p> <p>Group advised not to touch vegetation unless they know that it is safe to do so.</p>	L
Manhandling risks	<p>Arm strain while giving support.</p> <p>Helping special needs persons to cross stiles.</p>	<p>New helpers should be made aware of the dangers of back strain when supporting, and the need to maintain good posture at all times. They should not continue to support if it becomes</p>	L

Hazard (as above)	Explanatory details	Precautions taken to reduce risk	Risk H,M,L
		a strain. Special needs persons should be encouraged to be independent.	
Physical limitation	Unable to continue due to lack of ability or fitness.	Prior planning as a group. Awareness of weaker members. Weather interpretation. Variety of route options and early egress routes if possible.	L
Medical problems	e.g. epileptic fits, asthma, allergies.	Carers/ parents must inform leader and have relevant medication with instructions for use with them.	L
Lost member of group	.	Organise unobtrusive supervision and regular head counts during the activity and during any informal situations such as refreshment breaks. All carers to remain vigilant. Walk at the pace of the slowest member of the group. Keep one helper at the rear of the group.	L
Cars and other vehicles	Parking areas. Crossing roads.	Close supervision in parking areas and when crossing roads. Keep group together and do not allow individuals to become separated. Adequate carers/helpers for size of group.	L