Wiltshire Scout Centre

Outdoor Areas and Natural Environment Risk Assessment

Scope

This risk assessment covers **use of outdoor areas at Wiltshire Scout Centre**, including grounds, camping areas and natural features.

Applies To

- Internal volunteers
- Scout group or district hirers
- External hirers
- Visitors using the outdoor areas

Who May Be Harmed

Young people, adults and members of the public.

Important Notes

Individuals using the outdoor areas remain responsible for **supervising participants and managing the safety of activities they organise**.

Date of risk assessment	**8th March 2026**	**Date of next review**	**8th March 2027**	**Name of assessor**	**D Bavister**

What could go wrong? What hazard have you identified?	**What is the risk?** 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?
Uneven ground or natural terrain	Trips or falls causing injury	All	Grounds inspected and maintained where practical.	Monitor and address significant hazards.
Trees and branches	Falling branches causing injury	All	Trees inspected periodically and maintained where required.	Remove unsafe branches if identified.
Stream at lower boundary of site	Slipping into water or drowning risk	All	Activities near the stream should be supervised appropriately by responsible adults.	Reinforce awareness of water hazard.
Movement around site in darkness	Trips or falls due to poor visibility	All	Users moving around the site at night should use torches or suitable lighting.	Encourage use of lighting during overnight stays.
Severe weather conditions	Injury from wind, lightning, ice or falling debris	All	Users expected to monitor weather conditions and adapt activities accordingly.	Review guidance during extreme weather.

You can find more information in the Safety checklist for Section Volunteers and at scouts.org.uk/safety

UKHQ template published November 2024

Scouts

Wiltshire Scout Centre

Outdoor Areas and Natural Environment Risk Assessment

What could go wrong? What hazard have you identified?	**What is the risk?** 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?
Tent layout or campsite arrangement	Trip hazards or blocked access routes	All	Groups responsible for planning safe campsite layouts.	Provide guidance where necessary.
Waste or rubbish left on grounds	Trips, hygiene issues or pests	All	Users expected to dispose of waste and leave the site tidy.	Encourage removal of rubbish after use.

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.

You can find more information in the Safety checklist for Section Volunteers and at scouts.org.uk/safety

UKHQ template published November 2024

Scouts