

RISK ASSESSMENT OF OUGS FIELD TRIPS

Definitions from Health & Safety Executive

- Hazard** anything that can cause harm.
- Risk** the chance that someone will be harmed by the hazard.
- Level of Risk** quoted as low, medium or high in the opinion of an assessor who has knowledge of the environment under consideration.

Low Risk Hazards and Recommendations for Control:-

Weather

- Hazard** Variable, unpredictable weather, i.e. too hot, cold or windy, resulting in hypothermia, sunstroke or dehydration.
- Control** Winter - wear layers of warm clothing and good quality waterproofs.
Summer - wear light clothing, waterproofs, sunhat, sunglasses and sun block.
Always carry spare food and plenty of liquids.

Tides

- Hazard** Access cut off.
- Control** Consult tide tables and visit coastal sections on falling tide if possible.

Rough or High Terrain

- Hazard** Injuries caused by stumbles and falls over rough ground or slippery rocks.
- Control** Wear suitable stout footwear with good grip to protect feet and ankles.
Leader will advise whether boots, trainers or wellies are suitable for that trip.
Take extra care near exposed edges of cliffs and rock scarps.

Rock Falls

- Hazard** Injury caused by rocks/debris falling from cliffs, quarry faces or road cuttings.
- Control** Wear hard hat when close to base of cliffs, quarry faces or road cuttings.
Take care not to dislodge rocks when moving above other people on cliff tops, quarries or steep slopes.

Working Quarries, Mines & Industrial Sites

- Hazard** Injury caused by working machinery, toxic substances or blasting. Falling into sludge ponds or deep standing water.
- Control** Wear safety equipment provided and comply with safety instructions issued by owners or site managers. Keep with group and avoid moving equipment and vehicles.

Hammering

- Hazard** Injury, especially to eyes, caused by flying rock fragments.
- Control** Wear safety goggles and warn those close by before hammering for samples.

Other Specific and Medium to High Risk Hazards to be identified by leader and members informed of any extra precautions necessary to control risks either by letter or verbally at the start of the field trip.