

Buckden House

Land based activity – Operating Guidelines

Low Level Activity – Deer Park Walk

Hazards

In addition to the hazards that you identify at the time, please note the following:

Cars and other vehicles can appear suddenly and at speed immediately outside the gate from Buckden House, and on other roads in the area. Be alert and keep your presence on the tarmac to a minimum. Pay particular attention when returning to the road after descending from Redmire. Mountain bikes can also be encountered on the route.

Barbed wire exists on a number of walls, fences and gates alongside the footpaths and tracks that you will follow. Brief your group beforehand so that they can take extra care, especially when congregating near gates and stiles.

Streams and rivers in the area can rise rapidly and unexpectedly after heavy / continuous rain or snow melt. Additionally after wet weather, swift and deep water can be present where normally it would be dry. Be aware that streams and rivers are powerful in spate; children will be swept off their feet long before adults. Deep water is present along the route, particularly the initial section of the River Wharfe when leaving the road. Do not allow swimming in pools; there may be underwater hazards and the water extremely cold. Wet rocks will be slippery.

Farm buildings exist along the route. They can appear inviting, particularly the Deer Shed. They must not be entered. They can be unstable and present a health risk.

Steep slopes and crags exist along the walk. They can present problems of slipping and falling. NEVER allow anyone to run downhill or climb on crags. In addition, when nearing Step Gill, be aware that a navigational error or allowing the group to 'run-ahead' can potentially lead on to extremely steep ground and the top of a precipice where a fall would have very serious consequences. Maintain close group control and carefully follow the designated route.

Caves, open shafts and potholes exist throughout the limestone area. They can appear suddenly, or be concealed in shakeholes or amongst boulders. There are no signs or warnings. Although caves entrances can appear inviting, you must keep out.

Getting lost in the area can be dangerous, due to featureless moorland, steep slopes and crags, streams and rivers, and caves / potholes. For this reason you must keep to the designated phototrail route.

Mobile phone coverage is limited. There is a farm at Redmire.

Buckden House
Land based activity – Operating Guidelines

Operating guidelines

Clothing for staff and pupils should include a warm sweater and waterproofs, and if appropriate hat and gloves / sun protection.

Please abide by the country code, remembering to leave gates as you find them, NEVER to climb dry stone walls, to leave no litter and not to disturb wildlife and farm animals.

Carry out regular checks to ensure that everyone is accounted for; consider the use of a buddy system.

Staff

Leaders should have prior personal experience of the area and route, and be confident in their ability to manage the walk safely and educationally. First aid competence is required and a first aid kit and polythene survival bag **must** be carried. This is the absolute minimum. Spare clothing and a mobile phone may well be useful. In bad or forecasted deteriorating weather a Group Shelter should be carried.

The maximum number of students in a group is 10. There must be a minimum of 2 staff with each group.

December 2017