

# Buckden House

## Land based activity – Operating Guidelines

### Low Level Activity – Buckden Challenge

#### Hazards

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

*Cars* can appear very suddenly along the narrow roads. Be alert and follow the route in front of the Buck Inn and between the houses. Be extremely aware on the initial road section when leaving the village, vehicles can travel at 60mph here. Be aware of blind bends / hump back bridges. Consider your position when on the tarmac. Farm vehicles and machinery can be encountered on and off-road.

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

*Streams and rivers* in the area can rise rapidly and unexpectedly after heavy / continuous rain or snow melt. Be aware that streams and rivers are powerful in spate; youngsters will be swept off their feet long before adults. Wet rocks will be slippery. Footwear **must** be worn if paddling due to glass and sharp rocks. Do not allow swimming in pools, there may be underwater hazards and the water extremely cold. Be very aware of the deep / swift water while completing the tasks at Stubbins Bridge and along the River Wharfe.

*Challenge Exercises* can involve jumps, height, balance and the lifting and repositioning of heavy items. Inattention or carelessness can result in injury to participants. Ensure that briefings are clear and be prepared to step in or support pupils to prevent accidents. Pupils' feet should never be more than 1.5m off the ground. If you are unsure of your ability to 'spot' or assist individuals when necessary you should abandon the exercise.

*Emergency access* by road is possible along much of the walk. There is limited mobile phone coverage and access to public telephone. However there is a farm and pub in Hubberholme.

*The Church and graveyard* in Hubberholme is an attraction with its many carved mice in the pews. Visitors are welcome at most times. Be aware to the sensitive nature of the building and grounds, unsupervised exploration is discouraged.

#### Operating guidelines

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

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Please abide by the country code, remembering to leave gates as you find them, NEVER to climb drystone 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.

HiVis vests must be worn by participants at the front and rear of the group. Additional vests are available.

**Staff**

Leaders should have prior personal experience of the area and route, and be confident in their ability to manage the challenge 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 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.

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