


RISK ASSESSMENT

LOCATION/ACTIVITY/ISSUE BEING ASSESSED:	Orienteering and Map Skills at Dinton Activity Centre		
SERVICE/TEAM:	Countryside Service		
NAME OF ASSESSOR(s):	Mike Bennett		
DATE OF ASSESSMENT:	December 2025		
DATE FOR REVIEW:	Dec 2026		
APPROVED BY:	Signature:	Date 03/03/2026	
			
	Name: Gemma Wilford		

SUMMARY (* delete as appropriate)	
Risk level without additional controls:	HIGH / MEDIUM / LOW
Additional control measures required:	YES / NO
Risk level with additional controls:	HIGH / MEDIUM / LOW

What are the significant hazards?	What could go wrong? Who could be harmed and how?	What is being done to control the risks?	Amendment notes
Verbal/ assault from general public in Country Park	Participants and Instructors/Leaders could face abuse or even assault when walking around the park.	Staff to brief participants about respecting other users of the park and who/how to contact if there is an issue.	
Falling in the water	<p>Anyone is at risk of falling in when around the lakes and other bodies of water present in the country park.</p> <p>Floodwater may make it difficult to work out where the path stops and the river, stream or lake begins.</p> <p>Participants Staff</p>	<p>Participants to be briefed on the dangers and locations of water and to be given overview of where water is & provided with map of park.</p> <p>Where necessary water hazards can be overseen by instructor.</p> <p>Routes to avoid fast flowing rivers if in periods of flood.</p>	

		Sessions not to take place during periods of flooding.	
Falling in the water	<p>In very cold and windy conditions risk of hypothermia</p> <p>Waterborne diseases such as Weil's Disease</p> <p>Participants Staff</p>	<p>Participants briefed on dangers and locations of water including the safety protocol of being around the water's edge.</p> <p>Participants are overseen by an instructor where possible around hazards.</p> <p>Participants advised of emergency procedure if a member of their team falls in the water.</p> <p>All participants to wash hands before eating.</p>	
Contact with animal faeces	<p>Dog faeces around the park is a significant risk around the public footpaths and open areas.</p> <p>Dogs, waterfowl or wild animals faeces</p>	<p>Participants advised to stick to main paths if walking around the lake and not to touch dog faeces.</p> <p>Toilets located at main country park car park, café and at the Activity Centre to wash hands if come into contact with animal faeces</p>	
Contact with dogs	<p>Dogs walking with owners around the park may not be on a lead or controlled by their owners</p> <p>Participants and staff at risk of being bitten.</p> <p>Participants may feel anxious around dogs.</p>	<p>Participants briefed not to touch dogs unless they have permission from their owner.</p> <p>Participants briefed not to feed dogs.</p> <p>Participants briefed to try and stay still and calm if dogs are acting aggressively and not to attack the animal which could escalate the situation.</p>	

<p>Contact with wildlife</p>	<p>Wildlife around the park can be provoked by anyone especially during nesting seasons. Stings Ticks</p> <p>Participants & Staff</p>	<p>Participants advised of the dangers of provoking wildlife and asked to stay away.</p> <p>Participants advised to check post event for ticks if orienteering on Lea Heath (long grass) in summer, if the heath has not been hay cut.</p> <p>Staff advised if any participant allergic to wasps or bees and medication carried by participant and staff.</p>	
<p>Tree falls</p>	<p>Overhanging branches can fall on anyone passing by causing significant injuries.</p> <p>Participants Staff</p>	<p>Participants advised to stay away from any dangerous looking trees.</p> <p>Orienteering should not take place during periods of high winds / gales, or close after.</p> <p>Extra caution taken after periods of high winds.</p> <p>Rangers on site do keep the trees well maintained to reduce this risk to all park users.</p>	
<p>Separated Group</p>	<p>In the event of injury of one of the members of a group. The group may be required to split up to obtain assistance.</p>	<p>Groups maintained strictly in size with a minimum of 4 per group when not under direct supervision by staff. Emergency protocol given during safety brief.</p> <p>Unsupervised groups should be given contact details for DAC to help avoid the need to split up.</p>	
<p>Weather</p>	<p>In times of hot and sunny weather in areas with limited shade.</p> <p>Participants Staff</p>	<p>In times of extreme heat participants briefed to wear sunhats and sunscreen.</p> <p>Participants and staff MUST take at least 1l of water each.</p>	

		<p>Extra water available to fill up participants bottles if needed.</p> <p>Participants briefed on emergency procedure</p>	
Getting lost on site	<p>Participants may find themselves in an unfamiliar area with little knowledge on which direction to go to safely continue their journey.</p>	<p>Participants to be provided with map or equipment and basic explanation of how to use it.</p> <p>Map has emergency contact number on it so participants can call for help.</p> <p>Participants should have or be accompanied by someone with a functioning mobile phone.</p> <p>Participants to be advised where the central meeting points are, e.g. Coffee House and Dinton Activity Centre</p> <p>Instructor to have a whistle for raising attention of the group.</p> <p>Instructor to have a mobile phone and radio.</p>	
Trips Slips and Falls	<p>Anyone can trip over on uneven ground, rocks, roots etc when walking around the country park.</p>	<p>Staff to make a dynamic risk assessment of the ground conditions, proposed activities (i.e. changing the route away from rivers in flood etc) and control and brief the group accordingly. Avoid running.</p> <p>First aid kit to be carried by the instructor.</p>	
Ratios			

		<p>30:1 where teachers or group leaders have overall responsibility for group management and are operating with their own leader ratios.</p> <p>12:1 map reading and navigation skills and for orienteering where groups are signed into our care with no leader / teacher supervision.</p> <p>20:1 for junior ranger's map walk parties, where parental supervision is required on 2:10 ratio.</p>	
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REVIEWS AND REVISIONS					
Review date	Name of Assessor	Is assessment still valid?	If not, list adjustments with details of who will action and by when	Approved by Manager	Date of next review
Feb 2020	Nicola Dennis	Yes	Notes added about Heat, falling in the Water and contact with dogs.	Tanya Lee	Feb 2020
March 2021	Sophie Wooldridge	Yes	Updated references to COP's	Jack Walling	Feb 2022
Feb 2022	Nicola Dennis	Yes	Updated references to COPs		
Feb 2023	Isabel R.S.	Yes		Richard Ashwell	March 2024
Dec 2023	Mike Bennett	Yes	Updated references to COPs, updated hazards as some were consequences.	Richard Ashwell	March 2025
Dec 2024	Mike Bennett	Yes	Updated Dragon Fly Café name	Mike Bennett	Dec 2025