

Guildford Health Walks Risk Assessment.

Every walk is different, so complete a risk assessment for each one of your group walks – to help you plan. Make a note of the steps you are taking to keep walkers safe.

Risk assessments should be stored for one year (annual update) and be kept by the individual Walk Group Coordinators.

Have a great walk.

Walk Group name: Shere	Risk Assessment date: February 2025
Name of Walk. 1. East towards Gomshall 2. West via Chantry and Rectory Lanes.	Risk Assessment completed by: Graham Pugh 030325

Hazards (make a note of any hazards to walkers or others on your route)	Your notes	Who might be harmed?	Precautions
Weather Is there any danger of extreme temperatures, heavy rainfall or other severe weather during the walk?	Check the weather forecast for extremes of weather (rainfall, wind, heat, UV, cold, snow and ice).	All walkers	Check the weather forecast before each walk and postpone/cancel if necessary. If in doubt the Walk Leader should check if RHS Wisley will be open and /or refer to Georgina Churchlow for advice/decision if the walk should proceed. Make a recce of the proposed walk and make a note of 'escape routes' and where you can call for help/meet with the emergency services. Instruct walkers to wear weather-appropriate clothing and walking boots

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			with grippy soles. Carry water, walking poles, medication, completed ICE cards & first aid kits.

Traffic Do you need to cross or walk along a road? Are there any level crossings?	Shere village can become busy with 'through traffic'. All the roads and pavements are narrow. All the surrounding roads and lanes can become overgrown by late summer reducing visibility to walkers, drivers, cyclists and horse riders. Be aware of Mountain Bikers on Shere and Albury Heaths and racing cyclists on roads.	All walkers	Instruct walkers to meet on grassy area adjacent to car park, and not to wait/meet on the road inside the car park. The Walk Leader, Middle Marker and Back Marker must wear High Visibility vests at all times. Communicate clearly with the group on the day explaining the route, level of difficulty, any hazards and duration. Check for suitable road crossings with good visibility of and to on-coming traffic. Maintain single file along all road sections and get clear of the road as quickly and safely as possible. Advise walkers that they should only cross the roads when they think it is safe to do so. Remind all walkers to check for on-coming horses at road and bridleway junctions and that horses have priority on bridleways.
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Path surface and obstacles Are there hazards such as slippery paths, loose rocks, stiles, fallen trees, steep drops?	The paths through the wooded and heathland areas can become slippery with exposed roots, steps and loose stones. These obstacles are all well hidden from view during the autumn leaf fall. Most of the walks are on hilly terrain which become muddy and boggy after heavy rain. Some walks run alongside barbed wire fences. There might be fallen trees after a storm – climb over or around, if possible, otherwise go back. Paths become overgrown with eye-height brambles and nettles. Occasionally there are mountain bikers on the routes. DARK LANE is a steep, narrow bridlepath with insufficient room for horses and walkers to pass. Bridges can be slippery in frosty weather. Lower Street can have areas of black ice especially on the junctions with Orchard Road and Willow Walk.	All walkers, especially the visually impaired and those less steady on their feet. All walkers, especially the visually impaired and those less steady on their feet.	Check for hazards on the recce and adapt the route if needed. Provide clear information to walkers beforehand. Advise walkers to wear suitable footwear for the conditions and to use walking sticks. Inform walkers at the start of walk, and remind them on approach, of any problem areas on the route. <i>Remind walkers that they walk entirely at their own risk</i> The Walk Leader to keep an eye on and stay close to new and vulnerable walkers. Be prepared to split the group with a new Walk Leader to accompany the slower /challenged walkers. Walk Leaders to carry secateurs to clear overgrown paths. Advise walkers to carry and use walking sticks to aid with stability over uneven / slippery terrain. Remind all walkers that the lower half of Dark Lane is Out of Bounds to the group. Allow walkers to walk slowly and orderly holding the handrail. Tell walkers to walk with caution. Road salt/grit is stored nearby in yellow containers.
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Animals	There are often	Animals and Walkers	Remind walkers to cross fields with livestock calmly and quietly, keeping the
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Will you pass livestock? Is there any danger of ticks or bites/stings?	• mounted horses using the bridle ways on Shere and Albury Heaths. • horses and sheep either side of The Avenue. • cattle. • cattle sometimes with calves in the fields towards the Apostolic Church.		group together. Be prepared to divert if needed. Dogs MUST be kept under control and on a short length lead. Leave gates and property as you find them an inform the farmer if there is a problem. Advise walkers to check themselves (and any dogs) for ticks and remove them promptly if found. Consider the proximity of horses prior to blowing a whistle.
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Communications Is there a chance you could get lost, lose touch with walkers, lose visibility or phone signal?	Mobile phone signal can be intermittent. Group can get split up on narrow paths.		Walk Leaders to carry charged mobile phones and whistles to communicate. Download and know how to use the app What 3 Words which will help you direct the Emergency Services to you if required. If emergency services are called, place a banksman along route from road side to direct emergency staff to site of the incident. Download the British Red Cross First Aid app and familiarise yourself.
<u>Nearest Medical Centre:</u> Gomshall Lane Shere GU5 9DR Tel 01483 202066 NOT 24 HOURS	<u>Nearest Hospital:</u> The Royal Surrey Hospital, Egerton Road Guildford GU2 7XX Tel 01483 571122 A&E Open 24 Hours	<u>Nearby Defibrillators:</u> 1.The CO Op Shop Middle Street, SHERE GU5 9HF Tel 01483202907	2.The Compasses Inn 50 Station Road GOMSHALL GU5 9LA Tel 01483 202506