



Risk Assessment & Audit

Knepp 2026

Risks when travelling – Completed by..... Date.....

Risk	Likelihood	Severity	Mitigation measures	Observation or Interview	Compliance (Action to be taken if not compliant)
Travellers stomach problems	L	M	Tap water in the UK is safe to drink.		
Theft, mugging & personal security	L	L	Participants will be briefed on how to reduce the risks and will not be staying in a city as part of their field course. Valuables should be put away and not left out when not in use.		
Dehydration	M	M	All participants are informed that dehydration is a significant risk at all times when conducting field work. They should be informed that they should drink 2 litres of water per day. For any treks, participants should carry sufficient water supplies for the duration of the trek and the trek leader should stop regularly to rest and check for signs of dehydration.		
Being injured from traffic	L	M	Opwall staff are at train station when participants are near the road. Participants will not spend any time in cities during field course.		

Transfers & vehicles: Cars, buses, trucks – Completed by..... Date.....

Risk	Likelihood	Severity	Mitigation measures	Observation or Interview	Compliance (Action to be taken if not compliant)
Lack of management control increases risks of collision or other incident	L	M	Ensure there is a transfer supervisor for each journey or when not possible that the leader of the group has been briefed as to journey details and provided with a contact that they are able to call in case of any issues.		
Vehicles attacked	L	H	Travel to take place during daylight and on main roads wherever possible.		
Passengers becoming sunburned or rained on during the journey	L	M	All participants transported inside vehicles.		

Participants unprepared for length of journey or relevant risks	L	M	Ensure transfer briefing is given before any transfer. The journey is only 25mins so breaks are not needed. Participants are met by a staff member at the station and directed to the correct taxi.		
Inappropriate or lack of insurance	L	L	Ensure supplier holds relevant motor insurance to satisfy national requirements. This is a contract requirement.		
Inexperienced driver increasing risk of accident	L	H	Ensure driver has more than 3 years' relevant experience. Drivers are registered with a Taxi company.		
Driver unaware of safety requirements	L	M	Ensure the driver has committed to meet their obligation to comply with national vehicle regulations relevant to the journey e.g. for licensing, speed limits, weight of vehicle, number of passengers etc. and have been briefed on our safety requirements (see below). This is a contract requirement.		
Tyres not able to support emergency braking	L	H	Ensure that each tyre has visible tread in the central part of the tyre all the way round, and that there are no clear irregularities such as bulges.		
Lack of appropriate seating on journey	M	L	Ensure that all passengers have a seat and seatbelt		
Lack of comfort on journey	M	L	Ensure that luggage is stored in a separate area of the vehicle or does not prevent passengers from being in a comfortable sitting position.		
Participants becoming lost during travel	L	H	One transfer supervisor (who has a mobile phone and can contact each of the drivers) per group of vehicles.		
Driver not following safety requirements	L	H	Ensure that the driver drives carefully and within the speed limit and does not use their phone whilst driving. Journeys are less than 4 hours.		

Water Margins – Completed by..... Date.....

Risk	Likelihood	Severity	Mitigation measures	Observation or Interview	Compliance (Action to be
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					taken if not compliant)
River crossings	L	M	No river crossings will be undertaken at any time.		
Entry into water on surveys	L	M	Give a safety briefing to ensure that any out-of-bounds areas. No unsupervised access to water. Surveys requiring water access must take safety throw rope as a precaution. Staff enter water first. Participants must be wearing wellies and group should have access to charged phone with signal in case of emergency.		
Waterbody in camp	L	M	No access to the pond will be made clear during introductory talk upon arrival. Participants are advised to always carry a head torch after dark so they can ensure they stay on the path through camp. Rope barrier put up around pond.		

Terrestrial risks – Completed by..... Date.....

Risk	Likelihood	Severity	Mitigation measures	Observation or Interview	Compliance (Action to be taken if not compliant)
Participant becoming lost	L	H	All groups must sign out when leaving the camp using whiteboard system and if the group does not return on time then contact will be attempted with the group and if this is not possible a search and rescue team will be organised.		
Safety and security of participants and personal belongings	L	H	Valuables should not be left lying around. Knepp or Opwall staff members will always be present in the terrestrial camps.		
Participants poorly equipped or with a lack of fitness to cope adequately with the site conditions	L	M	Participants are fully briefed prior to the start of any walks and check they have the appropriate equipment with them. New participants will be watched carefully for signs of exhaustion and to adjust the distances covered according to the fitness levels. Training sessions given to students prior to		

			expedition to ensure they are fully prepared for conditions on site.		
Lack of hygiene increasing risk of disease	L	M	Hands should be washed regularly before eating using hand washing facilities provided on site. Kitchen facilities whilst on site should be kept clean and food categories (e.g. meats, vegetables etc.) are prepared separately. All tables on site are cleaned with bleach at least once a day and dishwashing bucket water changed frequently.		
Allergic reaction to food	M	H	All participants to submit dietary and allergy information prior to the field course. Where allergies are serious (e.g. severe nut allergies), no trigger foods to be prepared or served whilst the relevant participant is on-site (e.g. a total nut ban).		
Medical problem for participant	M	M	All medical details are provided by all participants before the field course and reviewed by the field course manager. The site is in close proximity to medical facilities. Site has first aid kit available.		
Need for emergency evacuation	L	H	Vehicles always available for emergency evacuation from field sites and Knepp Estate is accessible to ambulances.		
Falling down steep slopes, hole or tripping on slippery surfaces	M	H	All participants must stick to designated paths along which any potential hazards are roped off. Boots with ankle support must be worn. Swamp mats placed in wet and regularly used areas ahead of rain to reduce risk of slipping in camp.		
Snake bite	VL	H	All participants should wear long baggy trousers and walking boots/wellingtons when walking through the forested or long grass areas. Adder bites are extremely rare but should someone be bitten then treatment should be sought at nearest medical facilities.		
Small mammal or bat bite	L	H	No volunteers to handle bats. Rabies vaccines are not needed for small mammals but treatment should be sought if any bites. Any participant or staff member bitten by a bat to be given booster rabies injections.		
Reaction or disease from insect or arachnid bite	L	M	Participants with strong reactions to insect/arachnid bites identified prior to expeditions, and instructed to carry epipens		

			with them. Participants to wear long trousers and closed-toed footwear whilst in forested areas and long grass.		
Local fauna and flora	M	M	Trek leaders to walk at front of group and identify any major insect hives and ensure groups avoid these areas. All participants should check their shoes before putting them on. Participants will be briefed on any risks from flora or fauna.		
Livestock and estate animals	L	M	Participants to be briefed on arrival on how to behave around livestock or estate animals. Reasonable distance to be kept and not attempts at petting or touching even if believed to be domesticated.		
Heavy rain causes landslides or tree fall	L	H	Experienced expedition site manager to select the site to minimise risk from flooding, landslides and tree fall. In exceptionally heavy rain Camp Manager to organise a 24 hour look out system.		
Volunteers leaving camp unaccompanied	M	M	If volunteers want to leave camp outside of survey/activity time they must take mobile phones and the contact details of the site manager. They must share their live location with the site manager via WhatsApp, and return to camp at an agreed time. They also must stay on the designated paths around the estate. Under 18s must be accompanied if leaving camp.		
Fire	L	VH	Smoking is not permitted anywhere inside the site except in designated areas. All participants should be fully briefed on this regulation and are trained in evacuation procedures. No smoking allowed in any tent or building.		
Alcohol	L	H	No alcohol to consumed by any participants whilst on the expedition. No participants to enter the water whilst under the influence of alcohol.		

Severe weather risk – Completed by..... Date.....

Risk	Likelihood	Severity	Mitigation measures	Observation or Interview	Compliance (Action to be taken if not compliant)
Severe weather	M	M	Weather monitored by course management and any severe weather is reported to Opwall staff. If weather is severe and camp safety is not compromised then activities to be restricted until it has passed. Although very unlikely, if camp safety were to be compromised then participants would be moved to local facilities.		

Harassment, Bullying and Sexual Violence – Completed by..... Date.....

Risk	Likelihood	Severity	Who might be affected	Existing/additional controls	Assessment Method	Compliance (Action to be taken if not compliant)
Sexual harassment or assault by staff towards a participant, exploiting position of trust/seniority	L	H	Participants, particularly under-18s and those travelling alone	Staff recruitment includes safeguarding/background checks; all staff sign Code of Conduct and complete safeguarding training; 1:1 unsupervised contact with under-18s prohibited; site manager acts as Safeguarding Lead on every site; induction briefing for all participants covering reporting routes; alternative reporting route available if the concern involves the site manager themselves (see note below)		
Sexual harassment or assault between participants (peer-on-peer)	L	H	All participants, particularly under-18s	Code of Conduct signed by all participants; separate sleeping/washing facilities by sex and age group where practicable; staff supervision ratios maintained; induction briefing; clear, accessible reporting routes		
Bullying or exclusion within participant groups (including school groups and online/group chats)	L	M	Participants, particularly school students	Group leaders/teachers briefed on reporting routes; staff monitor group dynamics; site manager (Safeguarding Lead) available; anti-bullying expectations set at induction		

Harassment or inappropriate behaviour from members of the local community or other site visitors towards participants	L	M	Participants, particularly female participants and under-18s	Local staff/fixers briefed on expected standards; site access controls; staff accompany participants off-site where risk identified; local cultural guidance given at induction		
Barriers to reporting due to remote location (limited connectivity, no immediate access to police/embassy, isolation from usual support network)	L	M	All participants, particularly under-18s and those travelling alone	Multiple reporting routes identified at induction (on-site and off-site); satellite/emergency communication maintained at all sites; established local authority and embassy/consular contacts held by site management; incident escalation and evacuation procedure in place		
Alcohol or drug use increasing vulnerability to, or likelihood of, harassment/assault	L	M	All participants	Alcohol/drug policy enforced per Code of Conduct; site-specific alcohol restrictions; staff monitoring at social settings		
Under-reporting by under-18s due to age, unfamiliarity with staff, or reluctance to approach an adult	L	M	Under-18 participants, especially those travelling without a teacher/parent	Age-appropriate safeguarding briefing at induction; multiple named contacts offered (site manager, any other senior staff, teacher for school groups); reassurance that reporting will not lead to negative consequences for the reporter		
Retaliation or ostracism of a participant/staff member after reporting a concern	L	M	Reporting individual	Non-retaliation stated explicitly in Code of Conduct; confidential handling of reports; site manager (Safeguarding Lead) monitors welfare of reporter post-disclosure		
Concern relates to the site manager themselves, or the participant does not feel comfortable raising it with them	L	M	All participants, particularly under-18s	Off-site/head-office escalation route (e.g. UK-based safeguarding contact, out-of-country senior management) communicated at induction alongside the on-site route, so no single person is the only option		