

Activity	Gorge Walk
General Description	Gorge walk ascent of the Banvie Burn or Girnaig Burn
Location Of Activity Including Access and Restrictions	Girnaig Burn (Killiecrankie) / Banvie Burn (Blair Atholl)
General Activity Environment Considerations, E.G. Temperature, Weather and Wind Speed	Monitor conditions including, but not limited to; the weather, water levels and hydrological features.
Protection Of Others, E.G. Members Of the Public, Staff, Other Participants	N/A
Emergency Procedures, Including Location of Emergency Equipment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● In the event of a participant encountering difficulty then the leader in charge will assess the situation. ● Should evacuation be required the leader in charge should, where possible, arrange this via pre-determined escape routes. ● If emergency services are required, the team dealing with the situation will call and give a predetermined eight figure grid reference before contacting the camp and following the camp emergency procedure. ● Banvie Burn RVP – NN 8661 6654 ● Banvie Burn Junior Route RVP - NN 8659 6626 ● Girnaig Burn RVP – NN 9121 6294
Identity Of Participants (And Any Specific Training or Certification Required)	Individual Scouts or Explorers as listed on activity session participant list provided daily. Participants will be briefed on safety procedures prior to starting activity.
Requirements For Personal Protective Equipment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● PPE including wetsuit, buoyancy aid and helmet should be worn at all times. ● Appropriate footwear should be worn.
Equipment Used, Including Safety Precautions and Restrictions	PPE, throwlines and handlines (where necessary).
Materials Information E.G. Hazard Information and Storage/Transport Requirements	A minibus is required to and from this activity.

<p>ACTIVITY SEQUENCE, INCLUDING ASSOCIATED RISKS AND REQUIRED CONTROL MEASURES FOR EACH STAGE.</p>	<p><u>Staff duties</u> <u>Prior to session</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Weather forecast to be checked daily. ● Water levels to be checked daily / twice daily as appropriate. ● Ensure participants are briefed within their sub camps prior to the activity commencing. ● Participants to be subjected to a roll call on arrival for verification in case of emergency after activity starts. ● Participants should receive a safety briefing on arrival. ● Brief participants in the selection, use and wear of PPE. ● Participants will don PPE, which will then be checked by staff. <p><u>During session</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Participants should be regularly head counted. ● Participants should be briefed before entering the water. ● Participants should be monitored for signs of injury / hypo/hyper thermia. ● Participants should be briefed before jumping. ● Participants should be managed as appropriate by the Activity Staff. <p><u>Post session</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Collect PPE at the end of each session and hang to dry / prepare for the next session. ● Participants return to sub camp on completion.
<p>SAFETY CHECKS REQUIRED AT SPECIFIC STAGES</p>	<p>As required.</p>
<p>FINAL CLEARANCE THAT ACTIVITY IS COMPLETED TO SPECIFICATION</p>	<p>Everyone has enjoyed the session and equipment has been prepared for the next session.</p>
<p>ARRANGEMENTS FOR CHANGING / DEVIATING FROM METHOD STATEMENT</p>	<p>Should be decided by the leader in charge in agreement with other staff and clarified with the Activity Team Coordinator.</p>
<p>ANY OTHER ADDITIONAL INFORMATION THAT MAY BE RELEVANT</p>	
<p>CREATION DATE</p>	<p>REVISION No. & DATES</p>
<p>June 2016</p>	<p>Revision 1: 10th July 2016 Revision 2: 25th May 2022 Revision 3: 12th June 2024 Revision 4: 31st May 2026</p>
<p>Person in charge in the absence of Team Leader:</p>	<p>Available SRT/WRT/WWR qualified leader</p>
<p>Team Leader</p>	<p>Neil Murray / Scott Grattan / Jamie Mackinnon</p>

For Staff Members - I have read and understood this method statement (print, sign & date):

Gorge Walking (Girnaig Burn) Risk Assessment

Name of activity, event, and location	Gorge Walking, Blair Atholl Scout Jamborette 2024, Girnaig Burn, Killiecrankie, From NN 91223 62940 to NN 91556 63109. Saturday 18th July - Saturday 1st August	Date of risk assessment	31/05/2026	Name of person doing this risk assessment	Neil Murray, Pauline Anderson
		Date of next review	31/05/2028		

What could go wrong? What hazard have you identified? What are the risks from it?	Who is at risk?	What are you going to do about it? How are the risks already controlled? What extra controls are needed? How will they be communicated to young people and adults and remain inclusive to all needs?	Review & revise What has changed that needs to be thought about and controlled?
Moving within watercourse: Drowning	All Participants Activity Staff	PPE to be worn by all activity staff and participants (helmet, Buoyancy aid). Participants PPE will be checked for fit by Activity Staff prior to entering water. Buoyancy aids to be float tested at start of camp prior to activities commencing- all PFDs that fail test to be quarantined from use by Activity Staff. Party to be kept in one group for vision by all Activity Staff. Rescue equipment to be carried by the Activity Staff. No more than 12 participants per group. Activity staff to check the participants swimming confidence and make appropriate adjustments to prevent drowning or near misses. Weak swimmers should be distinguishable from the other participants by use of helmet markers e.g. coloured duct tape PPE equipment will be given a visual inspection at the start of camp and after each session by Activity Staff - where defects such as cracks, tears, missing buckles are present then these items are to be removed from use and quarantined. Safety briefing to be delivered by Activity Staff before activity commences.	
Moving within watercourse: Slips, trips and falls	All Participants Activity Staff	Full length wetsuit, sturdy footwear, socks and helmet to be worn to provide protection. Three points of contact on the ground when scrambling. Safety briefing to be delivered by Activity Staff before activity commences Safest path and techniques on how to move/climb are coached throughout the session by Activity Staff. Where required, hand lines will be installed at access and egress points to allow for safer access and egress by Activity Staff. Prior to activities commencing, watercourse to be visited by Activity Staff and, as far as possible, any obstacles along walking routes to be removed/ made safe prior to use by participants.	
Moving within watercourse: Swept away	All Participants Activity Staff	Team Leaders will agree unsafe water levels at the start of camp prior to activity sessions commencing and feed this back to all Activity Staff. Water levels to be checked prior to each activity session by a Team Leader or suitably experienced Activity Staff Member (appointed by a Team Leader).	

Gorge Walking (Girnaig Burn) Risk Assessment

		<p>Activity to be cancelled if water levels are at an unsafe level.</p> <p>Downstream spotters with throw lines to be utilised if the situation requires.</p> <p>Activity Staff to carry throw lines and be trained in their use to allow for rescues to be undertaken if necessary.</p>	
Moving within watercourse: Hypothermia	All Participants Activity Staff	<p>Full wetsuits to be worn.</p> <p>Time spent stationary in water to be kept to a minimum and the group should aim to have continual movement.</p> <p>Vision to be kept on all participants for signs of cooling.</p> <p>Participants should be asked regularly if they are warm enough by Activity Staff and to be encouraged to alert Activity Staff if they start to get cold.</p> <p>Emergency blankets to be carried in group safety equipment.</p> <p>Group shelters to be carried within group safety equipment.</p>	
Underwater Debris: Foot entrapment injury	All Participants Activity Staff	<p>Full wetsuits to be worn.</p> <p>All watercourses to be checked and cleared, where possible, of debris at start of camp prior to any activity sessions being run.</p> <p>An Activity Staff member to always be at the front of the group to identify any new hazards.</p> <p>Defensive swimming techniques to be employed where necessary when moving down a watercourse.</p>	
Wet Weather Event: Change in water course levels	All Participants Activity Staff	<p>Team Leaders to check weather forecast before each activity day.</p> <p>Activity Staff to be aware of safe water levels.</p> <p>Activity Staff to be aware of established escape routes from watercourse- these will be agreed and tested at start of camp during leader familiarisation sessions at all venues.</p> <p>Water levels to be checked prior to each activity session by a Team Leader or suitably experienced Activity Staff Member (appointed by a Team Leader).</p> <p>Activity to be cancelled by Team Leader if water levels are at an unsafe level.</p>	
Hot Weather Event: Heat exhaustion	All Participants Activity Staff	<p>Bottled water to be carried by Activity Staff as part of safety equipment.</p> <p>Vision to be kept on all party members for signs of overheating.</p> <p>Participants should be asked regularly if they are too warm and to be encouraged to alert Activity Staff if they start to become overheated.</p> <p>Minibus to be used where possible to move between locations to prevent excess walking</p>	
Existing environment: dislodged 'debris' by others or natural causes, falling objects.	All Participants Activity Staff	<p>Helmets to be worn in case of rocks being dislodged or branches being broken.</p> <p>Walk through the watercourse by Activity Staff prior to the event to identify areas of loose debris and these should be cleared or highlighted to all members of the team to be aware of and where possible alternative routes agreed.</p> <p>A Walk through of the watercourse by Activity Staff will be done prior to the event to remove loose hanging branches, as far as possible.</p> <p>Activity Staff should highlight any change in the existing environment that is noticed between sessions to ensure all groups are made aware and the conditions can be monitored.</p>	
Waterborne diseases / contaminated water: Weil's disease, Cryptosporidium illness	All Participants Activity Staff	<p>Good hygiene is to be encouraged by Activity Staff and all staff and participants should wash hands thoroughly after the session.</p>	

Gorge Walking (Girnaig Burn) Risk Assessment

		Route to be checked by Activity Staff for any obvious signs of contamination including carcasses, areas of agricultural run off (cow/sheep fields)	
Severity of Route: Strain / repetition, stress / fatigue	All Participants Activity Staff	Easy access routes to and from the watercourse are identified. Routes to be walked by Activity Staff prior to the event to ensure they are suitable. Route through watercourse to be trialled by Activity Staff prior to participants taking part.	
Jumping from height: Striking ground whilst jumping	All Participants Activity Staff	Activity Staff to inform participants of correct jump posture and procedure during safety briefing. Ensure jump is safe e.g. distance, depth, height of jump etc. Only allow confident jumpers to do larger jumps and base this on the smaller jumps at the start of the route. Activity Staff to check pools at bottom of jumps for debris prior to use. Jumpers only jump under instruction from an Activity Staff member and when the last jumper is clear from the jump zone.	
Access to the river: Slips, trips and falls	All Participants Activity Staff	Access/egress will be well marked from both entrance/exit routes to the river. Where steep ground is present, hand lines to be installed prior to the event. Debris along access/ egress routes to be cleared prior to the event.	
Public Interface: Public interference, other canyon groups	All Participants Activity Staff	Distance should be maintained between our activity group and any other groups undertaking activities in the watercourse. Team leader or appointed Activity Staff member to coordinate any passage between different groups at a safe location. Briefings and instructions to be given when clear of public to avoid interference Activity Staff to be vigilant of the public in and around groups.	
Travel to start / finish point: Being hit by car, road traffic collision	All Participants Activity Staff	All participants to be checked for wearing seatbelt before setting off on journey. Minibus to drop participants at the car park of Killiekrankie Village Hall Activity Staff to ensure it is safe for participants to exit the bus. Once exited from the bus, participants will be moved out of the car park onto the pavement to walk down to the river in single file. An Activity Staff member will ensure it is safe to cross the road. All journeys to and from the river for participants is to be undertaken by Blair Atholl Transport Team only.	
Communication: Non English speakers not understanding instructions	All Participants Activity Staff	Additional time should be taken with non english speakers during safety briefs to ensure they understand instructions. Where possible, a more confident English speaker can translate to other participants. Where possible, actions and visual aids should be used by activity staff during briefings.	
Communication: Lack of phone signal, communication breakdown	All Participants Activity Staff	Additional time should be taken with non english speakers during safety briefs to ensure they understand instructions. Where possible, a more confident English speaker can translate to other participants. Where possible, actions and visual aids should be used by activity staff during briefings.	
Accessibility of Emergency Exit: poor access to incident	All Participants Activity Staff	Emergency exit routes to be identified and briefed to all activity staff prior to event If moving casualty is deemed too dangerous/ not possible, emergency services will be contacted.	

Gorge Walking (Girnaig Burn) Risk Assessment

		Cards identifying key details including gorge details/ address/ postcode/ grid reference etc. to be carried in group equipment.	
Incident within gorge or canyon: injury to participant, rescue required	All Participants Activity Staff	<p>During an emergency event, the team leader will coordinate response and be key contact. Emergency kit is to be carried which includes as a minimum- climbing rope, knife, first aid kit, medical shears, sam splint, water, emergency blanket, mobile phone, laminated copies of key contact and emergency procedure information,</p> <p>Activity staff will be informed of participants' medical conditions prior to the activity. Medication required by participants will be collected, if necessary, at the start of session by the activity staff and placed within a pocket in the participant's PFD or in a waterproof case in an emergency bag to be taken into the canyon (whichever is the most appropriate way for the medication to be carried/stored).</p> <p>Each group will have a minimum 2no. leaders (including Team Leader) qualified in water safety e.g. WRT/ Swift Water Rescue.</p>	
Lymes Disease/ Tick Bites	All Participants Activity Staff	<p>All participants to be informed about the risk of ticks and bites by subcamp staff.</p> <p>All participants to be encouraged to check for ticks immediately after activity when showering and should be advise to attend the medical tent to have tick removed.</p>	
Jewellery and Piercings	All Participants Activity Staff	<p>All jewellery to be removed prior to activity start including watches, bracelets, necklaces etc.</p> <p>Where possible, all piercings that are outwith the area of the body covered by the wetsuit should be removed. Where this is not possible, piercings to be covered with duct tape.</p> <p>If vision allows, glasses should be removed. If this is not possible, glasses band to be worn by participants during travel of the watercourse. Glasses should be removed before jumping.</p>	

RE-ASSESS ON THE DAY WITH A 'DYNAMIC RISK ASSESSMENT' - [Home contact to be arranged and dedicated First Aider to be present]

FIRST AID LOCATION IS: Perth Royal Infirmary ON: 01738 623311

Gorge Walking (Banvie) Risk Assessment

Name of activity, event, and location	Gorge Walking, Blair Atholl Scout Jamborette 2026, Banvie Burn, Blair Atholl. Saturday 18th July - Friday 1st August.	Date of risk assessment	31/05/2026	Name of person doing this risk assessment	Neil Murray, Pauline Anderson
		Date of next review	31/05/2028		

What could go wrong? What hazard have you identified? What are the risks from it?	Who is at risk?	What are you going to do about it? How are the risks already controlled? What extra controls are needed? How will they be communicated to young people and adults and remain inclusive to all needs?	Review & revise What has changed that needs to be thought about and controlled?
Moving within watercourse: Drowning	All Participants Activity Staff	<p>PPE to be worn by all activity staff and participants (helmet, Buoyancy aid). Participants PPE will be checked for fit by Activity Staff prior to entering water.</p> <p>Buoyancy aids to be float tested at start of camp prior to activities commencing- all PFDs that fail test to be quarantined from use by Activity Staff.</p> <p>Party to be kept in one group for vision by all Activity Staff.</p> <p>Rescue equipment to be carried by the Activity Staff.</p> <p>No more than 12 participants per group.</p> <p>Activity staff to check the participants swimming confidence and make appropriate adjustments to prevent drowning or near misses.</p> <p>Weak swimmers should be distinguishable from the other participants by use of helmet markers e.g. coloured duct tape</p> <p>PPE equipment will be given a visual inspection at the start of camp and after each session by Activity Staff - where defects such as cracks, tears, missing buckles are present then these items are to be removed from use and quarantined.</p> <p>Safety briefing to be delivered by Activity Staff before activity commences.</p>	
Moving within watercourse: Slips, trips and falls	All Participants Activity Staff	<p>Full length wetsuit, sturdy footwear, socks and helmet to be worn to provide protection.</p> <p>Three points of contact on the ground when scrambling.</p> <p>Safety briefing to be delivered by Activity Staff before activity commences</p> <p>Safest path and techniques on how to move/climb are coached throughout the session by Activity Staff.</p> <p>Where required, hand lines will be installed at access and egress points to allow for safer access and egress by Activity Staff.</p> <p>Prior to activities commencing, watercourse to be visited by Activity Staff and, as far as possible, any obstacles along walking routes to be removed/ made safe prior to use by participants.</p>	
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Existing environment: dislodged 'debris' by others or natural causes, falling objects.	All Participants Activity Staff	<p>Helmets to be worn in case of rocks being dislodged or branches being broken.</p> <p>Walk through the watercourse by Activity Staff prior to the event to identify areas of loose debris and these should be cleared or highlighted to all members of the team to be aware of and where possible alternative routes agreed.</p> <p>A Walk through of the watercourse by Activity Staff will be done prior to the event to remove loose hanging branches, as far as possible.</p> <p>Activity Staff should highlight any change in the existing environment that is noticed between sessions to ensure all groups are made aware and the conditions can be monitored.</p>	
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Travel to start / finish point: Being hit by car, road traffic collision	All Participants Activity Staff	Access to gorge is by walking directly from site Footpath to be used at all times and groups should walk single file on the side of the path furthest from the flow of traffic. Where path is not present, participants walk at the side of the road with one activity staff member at the front and one at the rear. Should a minibus be utilised, all journeys to and from the river for participants is to be undertaken by Blair Atholl Transport Team only.	
Communication: Non English speakers not understanding instructions	All Participants Activity Staff	Additional time should be taken with non english speakers during safety briefs to ensure they understand instructions. Where possible, a more confident English speaker can translate to other participants. Where possible, actions and visual aids should be used by activity staff during briefings.	
Communication: Lack of phone signal, communication breakdown	All Participants Activity Staff	Camp emergency procedure will be received at start of camp and will be briefed to all activity staff by team leader Laminated copy of emergency procedure will be held within group equipment. Laminated copy of key contact information for camp will be held within group equipment During an emergency event, team leaders coordinate response and be key contact. Prior to activities commencing, a nominated location is to be checked at the venue for where phone signal is present- this location is to be utilised if phone signal cannot be achieved within the river.	

Gorge Walking (Banvie) Risk Assessment

		Each group should have 1 mobile phone carried by the Team Leader and at least 1 additional phone carried by a member of Activity Staff.	
Accessibility of Emergency Exit: poor access to incident	All Participants Activity Staff	Emergency exit routes to be identified and briefed to all activity staff prior to event If moving casualty is deemed too dangerous/ not possible, emergency services will be contacted. Cards identifying key details including gorge details/ address/ postcode/ grid reference etc. to be carried in group equipment.	
Incident within gorge or canyon: injury to participant, rescue required	All Participants Activity Staff	During an emergency event, the team leader will coordinate response and be key contact. Emergency kit is to be carried which includes as a minimum- climbing rope, knife, first aid kit, medical shears, sam splint, water, emergency blanket, mobile phone, laminated copies of key contact and emergency procedure information, Activity staff will be informed of participants' medical conditions prior to the activity. Medication required by participants will be collected, if necessary, at the start of session by the activity staff and placed within a pocket in the participant's PFD or in a waterproof case in an emergency bag to be taken into the canyon (whichever is the most appropriate way for the medication to be carried/stored). Each group will have a minimum 2no. leaders (including Team Leader) qualified in water safety e.g. WRT/ Swift Water Rescue.	
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