

## Event Planning and Risk Assessment Form

\* Please refer to the GSG [Field Safety Guide](#)

<b>Event title:</b>	Burnmouth	
<b>Date(s):</b>	<b>Start time:</b>	<b>Finish time:</b>
19/07/2025	8.30 bus pickup for 11:00 arrival	16:00 bus departure for 18.30 drop off

<b>Guest Leader 1: Name</b>	<b>Contact mobile &amp; email</b>
Dr Katie Strang	[REDACTED]
<b>Emergency contact number</b>	[REDACTED]

<b>Guest Leader 2: Name</b>	<b>Contact mobile &amp; email</b>
<b>Emergency contact number</b>	

<b>GSG Leader 1: Name</b>	<b>Contact mobile &amp; email</b>
Bobby Alexander <i>*(this person carries the 1<sup>st</sup> aid kit)</i>	[REDACTED]
<b>Emergency contact number</b>	See booking sheet

<b>GSG Leader 2: Name</b>	<b>Contact mobile &amp; email</b>
Lindsay Smith	[REDACTED]
<b>Emergency contact number</b>	See booking sheet

<b>Who will take over if the leader is unavailable on the day?</b>	The GSG leaders
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Event description					
Also give event route (where applicable)					
<p>This excursion will examine the varied geology around Burnmouth in the Scottish Borders. Starting at the top of the Brae (near to the village hall) we will start by exploring the Silurian greywackes which are exposed at the side of the steep road down to the harbour. We will then make our way towards Ross point to look at the Carboniferous Ballagan Formation exposed on the foreshore.</p> <p>This excursion will involve walking over uneven terrain and extremely slippery rocks (covered in algae and seaweed) and requires scrambling over some steeply dipping rocks. The beach is composed of cobbles that can be challenging to walk over and are particularly slippery when wet.</p> <p><b>The cliffs at Burnmouth are also prone to landslips so hard hats must be worn near to any cliff sections.</b></p> <p>There is no shop or public toilets in Burnmouth - Eyemouth is the closest place nearby with amenities.</p> <p><a href="https://maps.app.goo.gl/cAfFZqDPzVfCvEyNA">https://maps.app.goo.gl/cAfFZqDPzVfCvEyNA</a></p>					
Meeting point including postcode: (NGR/What3Words if appropriate)			Length of walk: (miles & estimated time)		
<p><b>8.30am</b> - Bus leaves from The Gregory Building, Lilybank Gardens, Glasgow G12 8QQ Location: <a href="https://maps.app.goo.gl/cAfFZqDPzVfCvEyNA">https://maps.app.goo.gl/cAfFZqDPzVfCvEyNA</a></p> <p><b>4.00pm</b> - Leaving Burnmouth</p> <p><b>6.30pm</b> - Arrive back at Lilybank Gardens Glasgow</p> <p><b>Note:</b> There are no toilets on site, so we will stop at Eyemouth on the way for a toilet break.</p> <p><b>For anyone not taking the bus</b> - Meeting at the top of the Brae (road down to the harbour) which is next to Burnmouth Village Hall. ///hats.reminds.airbase                      TD14 5SU</p>			<p><b>Around 2km, but very uneven terrain</b></p>		
<p><b>Difficulty of walk:</b> (Give details of any challenging, steep, or dangerous terrain)</p> <p><b>Is it Easy, Moderate or Difficult?</b></p>					
<p>Difficulty of walk – Difficult</p> <p>Some sections of this walk involve crossing particularly challenging terrain, including:</p> <p>Steep cliffs</p> <p>Uneven steeply dipping rocks</p> <p>Slippery seaweed and algae covering rocks and cobbles on beach</p>					
<p><b>Is any of the event on land designated:</b> Yes/No</p>					
SSSI Site of Special Scientific Interest	Yes	GCR Geological Conservation Review site		LGS Local Geodiversity Site	
<p>Further Notes: Site is a SSSI, no hammers or collecting.</p>					

Are toilets available? (If so, give details)
No, the nearest public toilets are in Eyemouth - <a href="#">Eyemouth Bantry Car Park</a>
Do participants need to bring a pack lunch?
Yes, lunch and snacks with plenty of water. <b>Note: There are no shops in Burnmouth and it's a long day so recommend bringing extra snacks and drinks.</b>
Is car parking available? (give details)
Burnmouth is a small residential village and parking is limited. There are some spaces on the road next to the village hall – TD14 5SU

Is hammering planned/allowed on this trip? (give details)
<b>No</b> (See Fossil Code for guidelines)
Are hard hats recommended by the GSG leader after reviewing the risk assessment?
Yes, <b>the cliffs at Burnmouth are prone to landslips so hard hats must be worn near to any cliff sections.</b>

Closest A&E Department (please provide hospital phone number and distance from event):
<div> <div>Borders General Hospital, Melrose, TD6 9BS</div> <div> <b>Phone: 01896 826000</b>  55mins drive (38 miles) </div> </div>

Risk assessment approved by: (GSG Representative)	Date
	13/7/2025



### Details of Specific Risks

- Are the following hazards present at the event? (Put an **X** into the relevant risk level box)
- If the answer is **NO**, select **NONE**.
- See guidance notes in each section for suggested risks and common hazards.

<b>Weather:</b> i.e. risk of hypothermia, sunstroke or dehydration. (only say NONE if indoors)				
Risk <b>Before</b> Mitigation	None	Low	Med	High
			<b>x</b>	
<i>Details of risk and mitigation measures:</i> Check weather forecast ahead of trip and pack appropriate clothing and supplies. light clothing, <b>waterproofs</b> , sunhat, sunglasses and sun block. Must bring plenty of water to avoid dehydration in hot weather.				
Risk <b>After</b> Mitigation	None	Low	Med	High
		<b>x</b>		
<b>Guidance Note:</b> Recommend participants bring a rucksack with: <u>Winter:</u> layers of warm clothing and good quality waterproofs; a warm hat and gloves especially where if risk of exposure due to getting wet is possible. <u>Summer:</u> light clothing, waterproofs, sunhat, sunglasses and sun block.				

Are there coastal areas where there may be <b>hazardous tides, waves or currents?</b>				
Risk <b>Before</b> Mitigation	None	Low	Med	High
			<b>x</b>	
<i>Details of risk and mitigation measures:</i> At Burnmouth there is a risk of becoming cut off by rising tide, rough seas and large waves Tide Times: 9am High Tide <b>3pm Low Tide</b> 9pm High Tide The tide will be going out during the trip and will not turn until the trip ends, thus negating any risk of participants being cut of by the tide. Along this coast there is the risk of high waves forming in high winds. We will negate the risk of high waves by checking the fishing forecast particularly if it becomes windy during the trip.				
Risk <b>After</b> Mitigation	None	Low	Med	High
		<b>x</b>		
<b>Guidance Note:</b> Provide Tide Times				

Will the event access any <b>uneven terrain</b> (e.g. rocky, boggy, saltmarsh, mountainous)?				
Risk <b>Before</b> Mitigation	None	Low	Med	High
				<b>x</b>
<i>Details of risk and mitigation measures:</i> The trip will involve walking down a steep road which can be uneven underfoot due to potholes etc. It will also require walking over rocky beaches and slippery rocks and seaweed. Appropriate footwear is essential (i.e. sturdy walking boots with good grip and support). A walking stick or poles might be helpful in crossing terrain. Participant have been warned that they need a good level of fitness, and the trip is not suitable for people who struggle with mobility or balance.				
Risk <b>After</b> Mitigation	None	Low	Med	High
			<b>x</b>	
<b>Guidance Note:</b> Describe the terrain so that participants can determine if event is suitable for their level of fitness. Recommend walking stick/poles for uneven ground and sturdy walking boots to keep feet dry if on wet or slippery ground.				

Will the event access the flanks or <b>tops of steep slopes or high cliffs?</b>				
Risk <b>Before</b> Mitigation	None	Low	Med	High
			x	
<i>Details of risk and mitigation measures:</i>  The walk will involve walking alongside steep sections on the road down to the harbour. Health and safety update to be given by leader before starting. Appropriate field equipment and PPE required (hard hats).				
Risk <b>After</b> Mitigation	None	Low	Med	High
		x		
<b>Guidance Note:</b> Say what the leader will do to keep everyone safe e.g. provide information about any danger and keep participants well back from any overhangs or cliffs.				

Will the event access the <b>base of steep slopes or cliffs?</b>				
Risk <b>Before</b> Mitigation	None	Low	Med	High
				x
<i>Details of risk and mitigation measures:</i> Yes, health and safety brief to be given by leader at start. Stay aware of surroundings and do not stand directly under cliffs. Hard hats required at some sections, and are essential when under cliffs.				
Risk <b>After</b> Mitigation	None	Low	Med	High
			x	
<b>Guidance Note:</b> If yes, discuss with GSG leader the need for hardhats and how to keep participants away from the danger of falling rocks. Visually inspect cliff and quarry faces for signs of instability. Take care not to dislodge rocks when moving above other people on cliff tops, quarries or steep slopes.				

Will the event access <b>caves or quarries?</b> (Active or abandoned)				
Risk <b>Before</b> Mitigation	None	Low	Med	High
	x			
<i>Details of risk and mitigation measures:</i>				
Risk <b>After</b> Mitigation	None	Low	Med	High
	x			
<b>Guidance Note:</b> If yes, discuss with GSG leader the need for hardhats.				

Will the event involve any <b>Hammering/Sampling</b> ?				
Risk <b>Before</b> Mitigation	None	Low	Med	High
	x			
<i>Details of risk and mitigation measures:</i>  Hammering is NOT permitted.				
Risk <b>After</b> Mitigation	None	Low	Med	High
	x			
<b>Guidance Note:</b> Hammering should be avoided where possible. Hammering, or improvised breaking of rocks, can produce flying debris that can cause injury, particularly to eyes. Event leaders should make participants aware of risks and provide eye protection where appropriate.				

Will the event be near <b>fast flowing streams/rivers</b> or <b>bodies of deep water</b> .				
Risk <b>Before</b> Mitigation	None	Low	Med	High
	x			
<i>Details of risk and mitigation measures:</i>  				
Risk <b>After</b> Mitigation	None	Low	Med	High
	x			
<b>Guidance Note:</b> How will leaders keep participants safe if rivers are in spate and/or paths are near overhangs? Be aware that deep pools can have steep sides which might be a risk to life.				

Are there potential problems with <b>mud flats</b> and/or <b>quicksand</b> ?				
Risk <b>Before</b> Mitigation	None	Low	Med	High
			x	
<i>Details of risk and mitigation measures:</i> Some areas of the coast can become extremely boggy, leaders will stay aware of surroundings, check tide times and avoid walking over tidal areas i.e. mudflats.				
Risk <b>After</b> Mitigation	None	Low	Med	High
		x		
<b>Guidance Note:</b>				

Do you anticipate any <b>plant, insect, animal or disease</b> hazards?				
Risk <b>Before</b> Mitigation	None	Low	Med	High
			x	
<i>Details of risk and mitigation measures:</i> As stated in guidance below – possibility of ticks and giant hogweed				
Risk <b>After</b> Mitigation	None	Low	Med	High
		x		
<p><b>Guidance Note:</b> Some people might be new to the outdoors. Do NOT assume everyone has basic plant or animal knowledge, especially if children are present.</p> <p>Incidence of <b>Lyme disease</b> from tick bites in Scotland is 37 per 100,000 (over 2,000 people per year). Wearing gaiters and stout boots can reduce the risk of infection. Ask participants to check for ticks and explain how to spot potential infection (a red ring around a bite) and to seek medical treatment at an early stage.</p> <p><b>Giant hogweed</b> (<i>Heracleum mantegazzianum</i>) sap can cause life changing burns and blisters for those that contact with it. Participants should be instructed to avoid touching it.</p> <p>Handling rocks on a beach with rotting seaweed has the risk of picking up <b>bacterial infection</b>. If eating lunch after handling rocks suggest participants have handwipes/gel for hands before eating.</p> <p>Recommend use of insect repellent where risk of insect bites (including midge or horseflies) is high.</p> <p>Warn children about the dangers of bare feet on beaches especially where <b>jellyfish</b> are present.</p> <p>Although rare, leader should know how to deal with an <b>adder</b> bite - can be fatal for the young and those with underlying conditions (see ‘<i>Safety Guide for Leaders 2025</i>’)</p>				

Will participants cross land with <b>livestock</b> ?				
Risk <b>Before</b> Mitigation	None	Low	Med	High
		x		
<i>Details of risk and mitigation measures:</i>				
Risk <b>After</b> Mitigation	None	Low	Med	High
	x			
<p><b>Guidance Note:</b> Cows with calves protect their young so avoid getting too close and never get between a cow and her calf. Nearly all cow attacks happen when dogs are present. Keep dogs on a lead.</p>				

Are there any <b>waterborne activities</b> planned (e.g., snorkelling, use of boats etc)?				
Risk <b>Before</b> Mitigation	None	Low	Med	High
	x			
<i>Details of risk and mitigation measures:</i>				
Risk <b>After</b> Mitigation	None	Low	Med	High
	x			
<b>Guidance Note:</b> If yes, check with GSG leader as addition insurance might be required for waterborne activities.				

Are there any other hazards, not mentioned above? e.g: use of heavy-duty <b>equipment</b> ; use of <b>chemicals</b> such as dilute HCl; contact with <b>toxic minerals</b> etc				
Risk <b>Before</b> Mitigation	None	Low	Med	High
	x			
<i>Details of risk and mitigation measures:</i>				
Risk <b>After</b> Mitigation	None	Low	Med	High
	x			
<b>Guidance Note:</b> Check with GSG leader if extra insurance is required. Think about potential allergies such as use of latex gloves. Consider potential toxicity of contaminated land/water e.g. near disused coal mines or industry etc.				

Will the event involve direct supervision of, or unsupervised contact with children or vulnerable adults?				
Risk <b>Before</b> Mitigation	None	Low	Med	High
	x			
<i>Details of risk and mitigation measures:</i>				
Risk <b>After</b> Mitigation	None	Low	Med	High
	x			
<b>Guidance Note:</b> It must be made clear to participants that all young people under the age of 16 must be supervised by a responsible parent/guardian; or a person with the correct PVG certificate such as a teacher or carer.				

**NOTE:** All leaders of this event must read the GSG “**Safety Guide for Leaders 2025**”. If you were not sent a copy, please contact the excursions secretary [excursions@gsocg.org](mailto:excursions@gsocg.org)