

Geological Society of Glasgow – Event Planning and Risk Assessment Form

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

Event title:	Spireslack open cast mine near Glenbuck, East Ayrshire, [NS 27460 63050]	
Date(s): 6 th July 2024	Start time: Bus pick up 9am arrive Glenbuck 10.30am	Finish time: Bus pick up at Glenbuck 3.30pm
Guest Leader 1: contact details (mobile & email):	Graham Leslie (BGS, HRA). [REDACTED] [REDACTED]	
Leader 1 emergency contact number	[REDACTED]	
Guest Leader 2: contact details (mobile & email):	Mike Browne (BGS, HRA). [REDACTED] [REDACTED]	
Leader 2 emergency contact number	[REDACTED]	
GSG Leader 1: <i>(this person holds the 1st aid kit)</i> Leader contact details (mobile & email):	Dr Neil Clark [REDACTED] [REDACTED]	
GSG Leader 1 emergency contact number	[REDACTED]	
GSG Leader 2: Leader contact details (mobile & email):	Dr Katie Strang [REDACTED] [REDACTED]	
GSG Leader 2 emergency contact number	[REDACTED]	
Who will take over if the leader is unavailable on the day?	One of the GSG leaders will replace a guest leader	
Event description:	Spireslack SCM: July 6th 2024. Site visit with Graham Leslie/Mike Browne (both BGS retired), leading field excursion to Spireslack for Geological Society of Glasgow (GSG) members - to examine the geology exposed in key sections at 'Main Void' area of the Spireslack SCM, and to consider the future uses of the site as a key element of Scottish Carboniferous geology.	
Meeting point including postcode: (NGR if appropriate)	Minibus pickup from Glasgow University Molema Building (Geology Dept)), Lilybank Gardens, Hillhead, Glasgow G12 8RZ All then meeting at Glenbuck Heritage Village car park, near Muirkirk KA18 3SB NS 70042 27743	

Length of walk: (miles & estimated time)	Short walk uphill from car park then approx. 3 miles around quarry but regular breaks to look at the geology. 5 hrs at the site.									
Difficulty of walk: Easy <u>Moderate</u> Difficult	<i>Give details of any challenging, steep, or dangerous terrain:</i> Moderate as there will be regular breaks to stop and look at geology. There are scree slopes which could be slippery. Walking boots essential.									
Event route (where applicable):	Starting from Glenbuck heritage Village car park we walk uphill to the entrance to the open cast mine. The route then follows features within the 'main void' area of Spireslack.									
Where are toilets accessible?	Toilets are not accessible during the trip but there is a café in Muirkirk, 8 min. drive from Glenbuck Heritage Village.									
Do participants need to bring a pack lunch?	Yes, participants will need to bring their own pack lunch and drinks.									
Is car parking available? (give details)	Limited parking at Glenbuck Heritage Village which is a 30 min walk from Spireslack									
Is any of the excursion on land designated:	<table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="text-align: center; width: 33%;">SSSI</td> <td style="text-align: center; width: 33%;">GCR</td> <td style="text-align: center; width: 33%;">LGS</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">Site of Special Scientific Interest</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Geological Conservation Review site</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Local Geodiversity Site</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> </table> <p>Spireslack and Mainhill Wood are currently owned and administered by Forest and Land Scotland (FLS).</p>	SSSI	GCR	LGS	Site of Special Scientific Interest	Geological Conservation Review site	Local Geodiversity Site	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Is hammering planned/allowed on this trip? (give details)	<i>(See Fossil Code for guidelines)</i> Limited hammering maybe permitted using geological hammers only with permission of the group leaders.									
Closest A&E Department and contact details:	University Hospital Wishaw, 50 Netherton St, Wishaw ML2 0DP 36 mins University Hospital Hairmyres, 218 Eaglesham Rd, East Kilbride, G75 8RG 43mins Crosshouse Kilmarnock Rd, Crosshouse KA2 0EX 43mins									
Are hard hats recommended by the GSG leader after reviewing the risk assessment?	Yes, hard hats will be recommended for all participants. Participants are asked to bring their own and leaders will bring some spares.									
Risk assessment approved by: (GSG Representative)										
Date:										

Specific Risks

Are any of the following hazards present at the event? If “Yes”, describe the hazard and mitigation measures in the box below. For the risk level column, the first row should give the unmitigated risk level. The second row should give the risk level once risk mitigation procedures are in place.

Suggested guidance is provided for some common hazards. Please delete these if not relevant.

Hazard type	Risk Level None/Low/ Med/High
<p>Weather: Variable, unpredictable weather, i.e. too hot, cold, wet or windy, resulting in hypothermia, sunstroke or dehydration. Only tick no if indoors.</p>	Med
<p>Spireslack is on open moorland and shelter from the sun is limited.</p> <p>In hot weather we will recommend participants wear light clothing, waterproofs, sunhat, sunglasses and sun block.</p> <p>Leaders will bring some extra water if weather is hot and make participants aware of the dangers and signs of sunstroke in very hot weather.</p>	Low
<p>Hammering and Sampling:</p>	Med
<p>Hammering, or improvised breaking of rocks, can produce flying debris that can cause injury, particularly to eyes. Event leaders will make participants aware of risks and provide eye protection where appropriate.</p> <p>Hammering will only be allowed by or under the supervision of the group leaders to help understand or explain the geology.</p>	Low
<p>Are there coastal areas where there may be hazardous tides, waves or currents?</p>	None
<p>NO</p>	
<p>Will the event access any uneven terrain (e.g. rocky, boggy, saltmarsh, mountainous)?</p>	High
<p>Yes: Uneven paths and disused opencast mine area.</p> <p>GSG will ask participants to wear suitable stout footwear with good grip to protect feet and ankles.</p>	Med/Low
<p>Will the event access the flanks or tops of steep slopes or high cliffs?</p>	High
<p>Yes: Spireslack is a disused opencast mine with a 80-85m deep ‘canyon’. Any accidents from falls or falling rocks could cause serious risk to life. Leaders will instruct participants to stay well back from the edge of the quarry; to stay back from any unstable sides and to wear a hard hat for additional protection. Sturdy boots will also be a requirement. Participants will not go beyond any fence, gate or edge protection, including lines of pop-stones or bunding without authorisation from the Principal Leader.</p>	Med

Hazard type	Risk Level None/Low/ Med/High
Will the event access the base of steep slopes or cliffs ?	High
<p>Injury may occur from debris or rocks falling from height. Visually inspect cliff and quarry faces for signs of instability. Wear hard hat when close to base of cliffs, quarry faces or road cuttings.</p> <p>Take care not to dislodge rocks when moving above other people on cliff tops, quarries or steep slopes.</p> <p><u>Yes: Leaders will guide participants away from quarry edges and recommend wearing hard hats.</u></p>	Med
Will the event access caves or quarries ? (Active or abandoned)	High
<p>Yes: Spireslack is a disused opencast mine with a 80-85m deep 'canyon'.</p> <p><u>Leaders will guide participants away from quarry edges and provide hard hats.</u></p>	Med
Will the event access hazardous road or rail sections ?	none
NO	
Are there potentially fast flowing streams or rivers that you may need to cross?	none
No but there are quarry ponds in the area. Participants will be instructed to stay away from the edges of ponds.	
Are there potential problems with mud flats and/or quicksand ?	none
NO	
Are there any waterborne activities planned (e.g., snorkelling, use of boats etc)?	none
NO	
Are there any activities planned using heavy-duty equipment ?	none
NO	

Hazard type	Risk Level None/Low/ Med/High
Are there potential chemical (e.g., use of dilute HCl) or biological hazards (e.g., contaminated land/water)?	none
NO	
Do you anticipate any plant, insect, animal or disease hazards? (including Lyme disease)	High
<p>Incidence of Lyme disease 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 and that they should seek treatment from their GP at an early stage.</p> <p>Recommend use of insect repellent where risk of insect bites (including midge or horseflies) is high.</p> <p>Giant hogweed (<i>Heracleum mantegazzianum</i>) sap can cause life changing burns and blisters for those that come into contact with it. Participants are instructed to avoid touching it.</p> <p>Although adders can be present on moorland there is little risk of adder bites due to participants wearing long trousers with sturdy boots.</p> <p><u>YES: Participants are advised to wear walking boots and long trousers. Participants are advised to wear insect repellent.</u></p>	Low
Will participants cross land with livestock?	none
NO	
Are there any other hazards, not mentioned above?	none
NO	
Will the event involve direct supervision of, or unsupervised contact with children or vulnerable groups?	none
NO	