

**Burnham Footpath Walkers Risk Assessment  
February 2024**

Carried out by: Mary-Ann Munford / Justine Page

Review Date: 05/02/25

**RISK ASSESSMENT for PROW FOOTPATH WALKS FOR CHECKING CONDITION OF FOOTPATHS and for EXERCISE and WELLBEING - BURNHAM**

**Overview:** As part of Burnham Town Council’s Health and Well-being initiative and Environment Committee work, these walks will take place regularly to help notice and report the condition of ProW footpaths in and around Burnham-on-Crouch as well as encouraging exercise.

**Venue:** In the locale and Countryside where ProW extend. - a walk of between 1 – 2 miles

What are the hazards?	Who might be harmed?	Controls required	Risk assessment level	Action by who?	Done
Slips, trips and falls	Walkers who are part of the Footpath Walkers group. Invited by Eventbrite invitation, from Burnham Town Council – maximum number 15.	<p>All participants to watch footing and walk on the most non-slippery part of the paths when wet.</p> <p>In places the paths, ground and surfaces will be uneven or in disrepair – walkers will be reminded that they must be watchful and take responsibility for their own safety, for example bring their walking poles if helpful.</p> <p>Comfortable and sturdy footwear, suitable for the terrain to be worn by all participants.</p> <p>If a walker falls, do not attempt to pick them up or administer first aid – dial 999 and make the walker comfortable until medical help arrives.</p>	Low	All attendees	Ongoing
Weather conditions	Walkers as above	Appropriate clothing to be worn for the weather conditions. The walks will take mostly fortnightly, through the seasons and in all weathers, however, should the weather be extremely adverse, the walk may be cancelled.	Low	All attendees	Ongoing
Animal faeces	Walkers as above	The walk will take place mostly on Public Rights of Way Footpaths as designated on the ESSEX	Low	All attendees	Ongoing

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		ProW interactive map. Litter can be pointed out, but separate walks are being done for litter picking (Environment group) and the less able (Justine Page's Group).			
Falls from tiredness	Walkers as above.	<p>The Walks can be anywhere between 2 and 6 miles and all terrains. The needs of the group will be checked by the walk leader before setting out. However, it's the responsibility of walkers to manage themselves, their safety, and their health. Walks aren't suitable for those less able or with balance problems.</p> <p>If a walker falls, do not attempt to pick them up or administer first aid – dial 999 and make the walker comfortable until medical help arrives.</p>	Low	All attendees	Ongoing
Overgrown or overhanging vegetation	Walkers as above	The walk will take place on ProW in and around Burnham. As well as encouraging exercise, part of the purpose of the walks is to check the condition of the footpaths and report any issues to the Footpath Officer at Essex County Council. For example: overgrown or overhanging vegetation, brambles, trees or dumped rubbish will be photographed and reported. The Walk Leader will carry a small first aid kit should plasters be needed by walkers – they will administer these themselves.	Low	All attendees	Ongoing
Safeguarding	Walkers as above	The footpaths are all public spaces. Attendees to be aware of interactions with the public. Should any uncomfortable interactions with the	Medium	MDCVS project officers and volunteers	Ongoing

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		public occur, this is to be reported to the appropriate authorities.			
Dog attacks	Walkers as above	The Footpaths are all open to the public including dog walkers. Walkers shouldn't approach dogs that are loose. Should a dog approach, stand still and wait for it to move away. Walk leaders will carry a mobile phone in case of emergencies.	Medium	Walk Leader, all attendees	Ongoing
Medical Emergency	Walkers as above	999 to be dialled should a medical emergency occur. Walk leaders to carry a mobile phone and ensure there is a signal.	Low	All attendees	Ongoing

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