

# Hull Natural History Society- Safety Notice

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Field excursions are at the heart of the Society's activities. We take care to avoid visits to hazardous places but there are inevitably potential hazards associated with any outdoor meeting.

The Society cannot accept any responsibility whatsoever for any loss, injury or damage sustained by any person in consequence of their participation in any activity. The Society does not have Public Liability Insurance and all persons attending meetings do so at their own risk. At all times you will be expected to conduct yourself in a manner which does not pose any danger to yourself or others. Each trip will have a designated leader whose function will be to act as a point of contact and source of information. They will not be expected to direct and control the group or take any responsibility for its actions or behaviour.

We are aware that naturalists are driven by curiosity and that there will always be temptation to stray from the main party. Please ensure that you remain in contact with the leader at all times and that the leader is informed if you decide to leave early. If you have any particular health problems, e.g. asthma, please ensure that the leader is aware of this and that you are carrying suitable medication to control the condition.

Participants in field trips should ensure that they are prepared for the conditions likely to be encountered, paying particular attention to suitable footwear to minimise the danger of trips and falls on slippery or uneven surfaces. Appropriate warm/waterproof clothing should be worn or carried. In hot weather the dangers of sunburn and dehydration should also be considered.

When visiting farmland be conscious of any risk that may be associated with livestock. We are fortunate in Britain that our vegetation presents few dangers, although even some of our common plants are remarkably toxic if ingested! Lyme disease is becoming an increasing hazard in our region and appropriate precautions should be taken to avoid tick bites.

Many of our visits are to places with open water - ponds, rivers canals and land drains. The potential dangers of drowning and hypothermia after immersion should always be borne in mind and caution exercised. When visiting coastal sites it is also important to be aware of tide times (adjusted as necessary for BST) and be conscious of any dangers posed by cliff-falls.

We frequently visit urban sites or make use of public roads; always be vigilant regarding the dangers of traffic.