RISK ASSESSMENT

This risk assessment report is for advice only for Ghyll & Gorge Scrambling/Jumping. All Greene Adventures instructors must *actively and continually risk assess throughout all activities*, taking appropriate action to reduce the risk presented to clients and themselves to an acceptable level.

This activity involves entering a ghyll or gorge for the purpose of scrambling up or down the watercourse, negotiating the boulders, streams, waterfalls and pools. The activity is presented as an exploratory challenge, engaging participants in peer support whilst the instructor provides technical and safety support. It is generally a playful activity and youngsters and adults alike gain great experience as they take on the challenges involved in scrambling amongst the boulders, climbing waterfalls, swimming and jumping in pools and sliding down the watercourse.

Organisation name: **GREENE ADVENTURES**

What are the hazards?	Who might be harmed and how?	What are you already doing?	Do you need to do anything else to manage this risk?	Action by whom?	Action by when?	Done
Terrain The terrain in gorges and ghylls (the course of a mountain stream or river) varies from steep sided ravines in which access and aggress is limited, to open boulder strewn river beds, with water flowing in all but the driest of conditions.	*Instructors & Clients*	*All participants should wear boots that offer significant protection to the ankle to prevent damage to the ankles and feet.* *All participants must wear a helmet at all times.* *The instructor should observe the bed of the ghyll and clearly advise participants of the best route where appropriate.* *Instructors must advise participants not to jump from boulder to boulder. Boulders are often slippery, become more so when wet and the risk of a fall resulting in serious injury is increased significantly by this practise.* *Instructors should pay attention to the physical capability of all participants and choose a route that all participants can manage. It is acceptable to steer participants along different routes according to their differing capabilities in order to reduce the risk of trips and falls caused by lack of, or over-confidence.* *Instructors should provide appropriate safety measures, such as ropes, belays, spotting and physical support where required to assist climbing on steep terrain.* *Instructors should judge the level of risk in climbing on waterfalls and implement effective safety measures or choose another route.* *Instructors should continually assess the risks ahead of the participants and modify the pace and spacing of the group so that this can be done effectively.* *Sides of ghylls should be avoided where appropriate so that the risk of a fall is reduced and to avoid unnecessary environmental impact.*	*Regular training for all instructors and regular assessments of current conditions of the specific ghyll or gorge we will be using.* *Ensure all instructors are suitably qualified:* *Summer ML* *SPA* *White Water Rescue*	*DMG*	*06/2011*	

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		Where drops or falls are to be negotiated, instructors should "spot" participants as they pass or provide appropriate support, or engage participants to spot each other. *Instructors should be clear about the location of access and egress points in the ghyll, and should be aware of the level of commitment required when entering the ghyll. Some gorges cannot be down-climbed safely in which case the instructor must be able to implement safe egress for all participants before entering the gorge.* *Instructors must have a working knowledge of the ghyll or gorge, by having visited or researched beforehand, or must be accompanied by another instructor or expert (with or without a group) who is able to furnish the appropriate information at the appropriate times.* *Instructors should advise participants how to physically support each other so that participant-to-participant support decreases the risks involved and "interference" does not cause a fall.* *Instructors should check that pools are free from obstruction and submerged obstacles before allowing participants to jump in, and should identify an appropriate approach and position from which to jump and a direction in which to jump if required.* *Instructors must be aware of the forecast weather, rainfall and snowmelt conditions.* *Instructors must judge the force of water on participants prior to allowing access to the ghyll or gorge, and must implement appropriate safety measures to reduce the risk of a fall into moving or deep water to an acceptable level.* *Instructors must be aware of the changes in water flow caused by narrowing and deepening of a gorge, and must be able to implement effective safety measures. Prior research or knowledge is essential.* *Instructors should advise participants of an appropriate route in order to reduce the level of risk presented by deep or fast moving water. Where deep and/or fast moving water is unavoidable, effective safety measures must be implemented. Consider the use of huddles, poles/staffs, flotation aids, fixed ropes and belays.* *Instructors should advise participants not to proceed unless appropriate safety measures are in place.* *Instructors should ascertain the depth of water and advise participants whether or not it is appropriate to cross, swim through or jump into the water.* *Instructors should judge the mental and physical capability of each individual before advising their route through water.* *All participants must be appropriately equipped with warm clothing, waterproof jackets (and trousers where necessary) to maintain warmth throughout the activity taking into account the likely*				

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		chance of spending longer in wet conditions than expected. *Instructors must carry an effective source of heat for participants. Bivvy bags, survival shelters, flasks of hot drink, candles, nightlights and heat packs can all be used effectively.* *Instructors should consider carrying spare warm clothing suitable for the activity, location, remoteness and weather conditions.* *Instructors should carefully observe participants throughout the activity looking for early signs of cooling and potential hypothermia. On seeing such signs, all participants in that group should be immediately evacuated and the incident effectively managed.* *Isolation in a steep side gorge under cold wet conditions can seriously exacerbate the level of risk. Instructors must be able to implement an effective evacuation of all participants prior to entering such a gorge.* *Where such isolation is possible, instructors must carry sufficient safety equipment to enable all participants to remain well.*				
Volume flow and temperature of water. After rainfall, or in snowmelt conditions, the volume, speed and temperature of water in a ghyll can alter significantly.	Injuries caused by slips in moving water. Hypothermia caused by immersion. Isolation increasing the risk of hypothermia and injuries caused by spate conditions.	Instructors must be aware of the forecast weather, rainfall and snowmelt conditions. Instructors must judge the force of water on participants prior to allowing access to the ghyll or gorge, and must implement appropriate safety measures to reduce the risk of a fall into moving or deep water to an acceptable level. Instructors must be aware of the changes in water flow caused by narrowing and deepening of a gorge, and must be able to implement effective safety measures. Prior research or knowledge is essential. Instructors should advise participants of an appropriate route in order to reduce the level of risk presented by deep or fast moving water. Where deep and/or fast moving water is unavoidable, effective safety measures must be implemented. Consider the use of huddles, poles/staffs, flotation aids, fixed ropes and belays. Instructors should advise participants not to proceed unless appropriate safety measures are in place. Instructors should ascertain the depth of water and advise participants whether or not it is appropriate to cross, swim through or jump into the water. Instructors should judge the mental and physical capability of each individual before advising their route through water. All participants must be appropriately equipped with warm clothing, waterproof jackets (and trousers where necessary) to maintain warmth throughout the activity taking into account the likely chance of spending longer in wet conditions than expected. Instructors must carry an effective source of heat for participants. Bivvy bags, survival		DMG		

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Rock/debris fall from above	Injuries caused by falling rocks and other debris from above.	All participants and instructors must wear helmets at all times. Instructors should advise a choice of route that avoids obviously loose terrain above the streambed. Instructors should consider avoiding waterfalls and plunge pools that are cluttered with debris such as trees and branches.		DMG		
Nature of the rock, and contents of the gorge or ghyll	In some ghylls and gorges, the sharp nature of the rock is such that participants can receive cuts merely by brushing against it or grabbing hold of it. Some gorges and ghylls may also contain scrap metal, old railway and quarrying machinery and	Instructors should advise a route that avoids man-made hazards of unstable, sharp or unknown condition.		DMG		

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	other items					
Influences from clients or public	Injuries caused by the actions of other people	Instructors should steer their groups to avoid others in the ghyll or gorge. Where public access to the top edge of a gorge or ghyll is likely, instructors should look out for people throwing items in, and should offer appropriate warnings for the public and an effective measure of avoidance for participants.		DMG		