

Safety guidelines for members of NDPS participating in Pictorialist Group Shoots and other indoor and outdoor field trips.

The health and safety of all members is the Society's top priority and through the provision of practical guidance and pre-planning aims to reduce risks to the lowest practical level. However, the Society is unable to accept liability for any member who chooses to participate in Pictorialist Group Shoots and other indoor and outdoor field trips.

Members who participate in Pictorialist Group shoots and any other similar indoor and outdoor activities are responsible for their own health and safety and in addition should not do anything that has the potential to jeopardise the safety of others (including NDPS colleagues and members of the general public).

Pictorialist photography can take you to places that are rather remote or rugged, so it is important to take the appropriate safety precautions to prevent injury.

The following safety tips are recommended to help keep everyone safe:

- 1) Put safety and wildlife ahead of photography - Do not do anything that will put your safety (or anyone else's safety) in jeopardy during the shoot. Making sure you do not disturb wildlife in their natural habitat should also be a priority.

On coastal locations:

- * Wear appropriate footwear and be careful on slippery surfaces
- * Check the tide timetables, so that you know when high and low tides are
- * Make sure that you know how to safely retreat so that you do not get cut-off by an incoming tide
- * Stay away from cliff edges, especially if it is windy or the ground is wet
- * Avoid walking below cliffs as many are unstable

- * Consider leaving a change of clothing in the car to change into if you get soaking wet
- * It might be necessary to walk in the dark to and from the shoot so make sure you have a fully-charged head torch to illuminate the path

On marshy ground –the Broads and Fens:

- * Wear appropriate footwear and be careful on slippery surfaces close to any stretches of water
- * Do not stray off boardwalks
- * If ice has formed on bodies of water, stay off as it is unlikely to support your body weight

In forests and other wooded areas:

- * Observe all notices, signs and grading of trails as they show the expected levels of difficulty
- * Be particularly cautious in high winds and obey any instructions from forest staff
- * Keep your distance from work sites and obey all signs
- * Do not approach any working machinery
- * Do not climb on timber stacks
- * Respect people, nature and wildlife

If you do get wet, clean your hands with antiseptic wipes before eating and drinking. Cover all cuts and grazes with waterproof plasters.

- 2) Research Locations - Before going on a pictorialist shoot, be sure to sufficiently research the area being visited. There is a lot of information available online and you should be able to get a good feel for a location beforehand. Also remember if the shoot is being held at a designated National Park Area or Nature Reserve there will almost certainly be additional byelaws and rules you will be expected to observe particularly about observing wild animals etc from a safe distance.

- * If travelling by car, make sure you know exactly where you can park safely
 - * Use SatNav (or a map) to direct you to the correct location if it is unfamiliar to you
 - * Take a fully charged mobile phone with you
 - * Consider leaving a change of clothing in the car to change into if you get soaking wet
 - * It might be necessary to walk in the dark to and from the shoot so make sure you have a fully-charged head torch to illuminate the path
- 3) Check the weather forecast before going on an outdoor shoot to ensure you wear and/or bring the appropriate clothing with you including:
- * Windproof and waterproof outer-clothing
 - * Appropriate footwear for the conditions that are likely to be encountered during the shoot
 - * Head covering
 - * Gloves
 - * Remember to layer appropriately
 - * Hot drink and food
- Remember it is better to wear layers rather than one garment.
- 4) Let someone know where you are going and at what time you plan to return
- * When on a pictorialist shoot with other members of the Society make sure you arrive in good time and in the event, you are delayed know how you can meet up with the rest of the group safely
 - * Equally, do not leave the shoot before everyone else finishes without letting one of the party know you are leaving
- 5) You are responsible for your own camera gear and other equipment you choose to bring on a shoot so keep it safe
- * Buy a good camera bag
 - * Buy a camera rain cover
 - * Beware of temperature differentials
 - * Keep your eye on your camera bag
 - * Make sure your tripod is well maintained

- * Get insurance

In addition, during wet weather or at coastal locations

- * Cover your camera with rain gear
- * Protect your lens with a filter
- * Minimise lens changes
- * Wipe moisture off quickly
- * Clean your gear after the shoot

6) Listen carefully to the safety briefing before the shoot commences:

- * If the shoot is at an operational site listen carefully to the people in charge of the location and make sure you understand what limitation exist and what protective measures you should take before you commence taking photographs
- * If the shoot is at an unoccupied location a safety briefing will be provided by the shoot leader. Again, listen carefully and follow the guidance provided.

7) Avoid working machinery and free-standing items that could easily be knocked over and damaged

8) If you are allowed to use a tripod, make sure you do not block any walkways and do not leave it unattended at anytime

9) If permission is given to shoot outside a venue beware of additional hazards such as, fork-lift pallet trucks, stacks of raw materials, water courses and slippery external surface. Additional guidance for outdoor shoots is also available in NDPS Safety Guidance Note_01

10) DO NOT ENTER RESTRICTED AREAS

11) Remember to be respectful both of the location where the shoot is taking place and of other NDPS members who are trying to take photographs,

Finally, remember to enjoy yourself and observe the principles of 'Leave no Trace'

- * Plan ahead and prepare
- * Travel (walk) on durable surfaces
- * Dispose of waste properly

- * Leave what you find
- * Respect nature and wildlife
- * Be considerate of others.