

Missing Person Immediate Search Tactics – Aide Memoire



Most missing people are found alive and well.

Most missing people are found in buildings, or on roads/paths.

All searches should start from the place last seen – ascertain that location as a priority.

	If place last seen was URBAN		If place last seen was RURAL	
	Places to look first in order of priority	How far to look from place last seen	Places to look first in order of priority	How far to look from place last seen
Under 16s	Homes, buildings, shelters, roads	Up to 600 metres	Homes, buildings, shelters, woodland, roads	Up to 700 metres
Dementia	Roads, homes, buildings, fence lines	Up to 500 metres	Roads, paths, ditches, homes, buildings	Up to 1200 metres
Despondent, Depressed, Stressed or Suicidal	Homes, buildings, waterside, roads "Favourite places"	Up to 700 metres	Homes, buildings, roads, waterside, woodland "Favourite places"	Up to 700 metres
Developmental Problems, Mental Retardation	Homes, buildings, roads	Up to 500 metres	Roads, homes, buildings, ditches	Up to 1000 metres
Psychological or Mental Illness	Homes, buildings, roads	Up to 500 metres	Roads, paths, buildings, woodland	Up to 1000 metres
Alcohol or Drugs – under the influence of	Homes, roads, buildings	Up to 800 metres	Homes, roads, buildings, woodland	Up to 800 metres

Homes - This usually refers to friends, relatives, neighbours or other inhabited buildings including Pubs.

Buildings – This refers to uninhabited buildings such as sheds, barns etc.

Roads – This refers to roads, tracks, byways and paths. Drive them if you can.

Woodland – Check the edges of woodland only, don't go deep in unless on a well-made track.

Water changes things...

If there is a large pond, lake, river, canal or shoreline nearby then *check it first*.

Do not go within 3 metres of the water itself. Never go in the water!

To measure distance, drive at 30mph:

500 metres takes 40 seconds (or 7 mins walk)

700 metres takes 55 seconds (or 9 mins walk)

1000 metres takes 75 seconds (or 15 mins walk)

1200 metres takes 90 seconds (or 18 mins walk)