

Walk Leaders Risk Assessment.

Insurance Statement

All activities take place at safe venues and with safe equipment which has been subject to your own appropriate and documented risk assessment.

Club Procedures:

Walk Leaders do not produce a detailed written risk assessment for every walk, however they will plan their walk with regard to the following risks, plans and measures.

RISK	MITIGATION MEASURES
Walkers Ability	<p>Since we are a membership club, the walk leaders know the members who walk with them , usually regularly, and know the limits of their abilities. They will plan the walk accordingly.</p> <p>New Members (or potential members coming as a guest) have an initial discussion with one of the committee members, usually the membership secretary, the chairman or the walk secretary.</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">This discussion identifies the new/prospective members walking experience and likely fitness, and then suggests a first walk that should be well within their means, and less that they have walked before</p> <p>Members who bring a guest must be on the same walk , and the member will talk with the walk leader to ensure the walk is suitable.</p> <p>The walk leader has a veto on who walks with them, if they are in any doubt about the members ability to finish the walk on time and safely.</p> <p>The walk descriptions are posted on-line, and circulated on the coaches, showing at minimum the walk length and ascent, the route to be followed and normally some details of type of terrain.</p> <p>This walk description is confirmation that the risk assessment described in this document has been carried out by the leader for their particular walk that day.</p>
Equipment needed	<p>All members are requested to inform their walk leader about any medical conditions which might affect their walking on the day</p> <p>All members are reminded that they must have suitable footwear and clothes, including waterproof clothing at all times.</p> <p>All members are required to carry their own basic first aid kit for minor cuts/abrasions</p> <p>All members must carry a torch, and not just a mobile phone, and they are reminded before the onset of early sunsets.</p> <p>All members, and all guests, are required to fill out a medical emergency form, and keep it at the very top of their rucksack so it is available to the walk leader in case of accidents.</p> <p>Members are reminded periodically on the coach to check and update this emergency card.</p> <p>All members are required to carry a whistle at all times</p> <p>The website has a detailed summary of the equipment recommended or required for individual walkers, which all new members are asked to read</p>
Walk Leaders Equipment	<p>Walk leaders will have a fully charged GPS device with them for each walk</p> <p>Walk leaders will also have a map and a compass with them for every walk, in case of any issues with their GPS</p> <p>Walk leaders will have a fully charged phone, and ideally a power pack, with the numbers of the LoD, the coach drivers, and other walk leaders.</p> <p>Walk Leaders will have the What3Walks or the OS apps on their phone so they can easily give their position if needed</p> <p>This ensures that the walk leader knows exactly where the group is at all times, has backups, and can call for help/give information in the event of an accident.</p> <p>The Walk Leader will carry a more extensive first aid kit, including a survival bag or 1-man bivvi-bag, and a crepe bandage to apply pressure if needed.</p>
Group Size	<p>The minimum group size for walks is 4.</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">This allows in the case of an accident, 1 person to stay with the casualty and 2 to go together to get help if needed.</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">The exception to this is a 7 mile or less walk, which is never more than 2km from the road, is not over isolated moorland, and has minimal height gain/loss, and is on good paths/tracks/roads throughout.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">For this walk, a group of 2 is allowed.</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">The maximum size ideally is 15. If a walk is greater than this, the LoD will check with the relevant leader that they are comfortable with an increased number</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">If necessary, the LoD and the other coach leader will ask for volunteers to change their walk in order to achieve reasonable numbers for all walks, especially to ensure the 4 minimum.</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">For any large group, the walk leader will designate a back marker to stay at the back and ensure that the group does not get too spread out.</p>
Risks on the walks	
Paths	The walk leader will plan the walk on public rights of way, open access land, premissive paths, or roads (preferably minor), unless they have prior knowledge of the existence of a suitable path
Terrain	<p>The Walk leaders have extensive experience of leading in the areas we walk, and so know the type of terrain to be encountered.</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">They will plan their walk accordingly, matching their groups ability/fitness with the effort required for the terrain planned</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">Where they do not know the specific FP's being used, the walk leaders will check whenever possible via aerial views or internet searches that these do appear to exist.</p> <p>Walk Leaders do not usually do a full recce of the walk, as this is not needed given their experience of the various areas.</p> <p>New Walk Leaders will often do a partial/full recce to make sure they know the chosen route and it's hazards, until they have built up sufficient experience</p> <p>The combined experience of the walk leaders in the club is >1000 walks, and the more experienced walk leaders will offer advice if they see a walk has potentially difficult spots</p> <p>Where many stiles may be encountered (eg Yorkshire Dales) the walk leader will allow extra time for crossing these especially with a large group</p>
Water Hazards	<p>The walk leaders review water hazards on their route - to try to ensure that FB's do exist via aerial views or internet searching or from other walk leaders.</p> <p>In very wet weather or after a very wet spell, the walk leader will review the stream crossings and decide whether to change the route to avoid potential difficulties</p> <p>For coastal walks, the walks secretary will ensure the tide times are suitable with low tide for most of the walk, and will post the low water time on the website for the walk leaders.</p>
Animals	<p>Members are advised to take care when entering fields with livestock, especially cows with calves.</p> <p>Members are advised to keep together, and to walk around livestock.</p> <p>Members are not allowed to bring any dogs on the walks or on the coaches, to prevent exacerbating any situation with livestock</p>

Weather	Walk Leaders will check the weather forecast a few days before their walk, and plan the route accordingly.
	They will reduce the maximum height or exposed open terrain if the combination of rain/sleet/snow, wind speed and direction, and temperatures could make this unsafe.
	They will monitor the weather forecast on route to the drop-off's, and change their route on the coaches if needed by a worsening forecast.
	In the event of thick mist/fog/cloud, they will consider avoiding any open moorland/hills etc, and will definitely have a back marker at all times
Darkness	The walk leader plans the walk to ensure that the walk will be back before sunset - sunset times are listed on the website for each walk.
	See above on torches etc.
Roads/Traffic	Walk leaders will try to avoid roads whenever possible, other than minor roads where little traffic is expected .
	If road walking is unavoidable, the group should walk on the right hand side of the road and in single file whenever any traffic might be encountered.
	For drop-off's, the walk leaders will avoid places with poor visibility, the need to cross busy roads, or places with no space on the verge/kerb for the members to disembark
	The LoD will check all the proposed drop-off's, and will discuss any that appear unsuitable with the walk leader concerned, or the coach company , and modify as appropriate.
	Ideally the drop-off's will be at designated bus stops or laybys.
Alternatives	The coach pickups and drop-offs at the beginning and end of the day are all at bus stops or bus stations, or the known safe space by the pool.
	Walk Leaders will have identified beforehand modifications to the route, should they encounter difficulties with the terrain, water hazards etc
New Walk Leaders	Walk Leaders will also have identified in their minds options to shorten the walks should the coaches and hence the drop-off's be delayed in the morning - so the walk can still be safely completed in time.
	As new Walk Leaders will not have the expertise or the experience of the existing walk leaders:
	The Walk Secretary will agree any potential new walk leaders before they lead a walk, based on their assessment of the new walk leaders ability, experience, leadership .
	New Walk leaders will be supported by an existing walk leader for their first several walks -
Accidents	This will include discussing the route in detail before the walk, and then accompanying the new WL on their walk.
	This will continue until the experienced walk leader is confident of the new walk leaders ability, especially given unforeseen circumstances
	In the event of an accident, the walk leader will assess the situation. If severe, they will call the emergency services immediately, using text if poor/no signal
	Walk Leaders can give the emergency services their location via W3W, or Grid Reference as appropriate
	If there is no signal, then 2 members will go to where the walk leaders assesses is the quickest place for a signal, leaving at least 1 person with the casualty.
Lost Group	The 2 members going will obtain the casualty's W3W location before leaving
	If the walk leader decides that emergency services are not required but the casualty cannot complete the walk, they will call the coach driver and arrange a suitable pickup
	For minor accidents, they will check the casualty's medical form, then apply first aid as required.
	One copy of all that days walks will be kept by the LoD, and each coach will have 1 copy left at the front seat so the expected route can be checked/searched if appropriate
Lost Individual	All walk leaders will have the list of phone numbers of the other walk leaders and the coach drivers for use in emergency , or any change in plan.
	All members are required to carry a whistle at all times
	Members are reminded that in the event of being separated from the main group, they should stay where they are and must blow their whistle immediately.
	Use the emergency signal of six blasts in quick succession, then a minutes silence