

Footloose 303

Risk assessment / Advice sheet / Check list for: Un-reccied walks

Generally walks should be reccied in advance but it is accepted that in certain circumstances this not possible or is not necessary. Examples are:

1. Where a walk leader stands in for a leader due to last minute illness or similar.
2. On national trails and similar routes which are walked regularly by other walkers and are well way-marked.
3. Where the walk leader has on several occasions used the whole route before and thus knows the route well.

Note!

- This document should be read alongside the applicable Risk assessment / Advice sheet / Check list for the type of walk being carried out.
- In situations 1 and 2 only experienced leaders should lead such walks.
- It may not be necessary to have a second leader where the group size is small (under 5 walkers plus leader).

Who might be harmed by the hazard / risk?

In almost all cases it is those on the walk who might be harmed. However, in a few limited cases it may be third parties e.g. car drivers.

Risk or hazard	What to do to reduce risk	Leader's check
What to take with you / do before the walk		
Nature of landscape, has the walk been properly described, what is the nature of the route?	Study the route in advance to identify, memorise what you can, inform walkers in advance via walk email.	
Accident when crossing or walking on roads and lanes	Study the route carefully in advance to identify potential hazards such as busy roads, sharp bends on roads.	
If you are concentrating on the route it is more difficult to manage and look after those on the walk	In the case of situations 1 and 2 above arrange for a second leader to lead the walk with you.	
Loss of light, walk taking longer than planned.	Un-reccied walks may take longer. Allow additional time if nature of route dictates, for example complex routes.	
On the walk / at start		
Walkers going ahead when walk is paused for navigation check etc.	At start of walk emphasise that walk members must not go ahead of the navigation leader.	
If you are concentrating on the route it is more difficult to manage and look after those on the walk	One leader concentrates on the navigation the other looks after the party. Make use of skills / local knowledge of those on the walk.	
Un-expected hazards such as missing bridges, bad path erosion etc.	Navigation leader to stop walk and identify safe route. Be prepared to change the walk if circumstances require it.	