



## Group Walks | Risk Assessment

The following Risk Assessment checklist can be used to prepare for group walks. Each walk inevitably carries different risks, but this checklist has been created for you to refer to when planning all your walks.

Before each walk:

- Agree location, date and time of walk
- Designate walk leader – responsible for communicating route, time, date and any pertinent information prior to walk/coordination on the day
- Conduct route recce

Hazards	Precautions	
<b>Weather</b> What is the forecasted weather? Is there any danger of extreme temperatures, heavy rainfall, snow or other severe weather events?	Check the weather forecast and postpone/cancel if necessary	
	Remind walkers to bring suitable clothing, footwear and items for the conditions (e.g. hats/scarves/gloves, sunhat, SPF cream)	
	Make a note of 'escape routes' should the walk need to be abandoned	
	Other/Detail:	
<b>Traffic</b>	Check for suitable crossing places on the recce	
	Communicate clearly with the group on the day	
	Maintain single file on any road sections	



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<p>Do you need to cross or walk along a road? Are there any level crossings?</p>	<p>Other/Detail:</p>	
<p><b>Path surface and obstacles</b> Are there hazards such as slippery paths, loose rocks, stiles, fallen trees, steep drops?</p>	<p>Check for hazards on the recce and adapt the route if needed</p>	
	<p>Communicate any potential hazards with walkers beforehand</p>	
	<p>Follow designated footpaths and routes and adhere to any warning signage</p>	
	<p>Advise walkers to bring suitable footwear for the conditions</p>	
	<p>Other/Detail:</p>	
<p><b>Animals</b> Will you pass livestock? Is there any danger of ticks or bites/stings?</p>	<p>Let walkers know to cross fields with livestock calmly and quietly, keeping the group together. Be prepared to divert if needed</p>	
	<p>Leave gates and property as you find them</p>	
	<p>If dogs are joining please ensure all participants are advised and happy with this. Dogs must always be kept on a lead</p>	
	<p>Ensure members do not approach unfamiliar dogs</p>	
	<p>Advise walkers to check for ticks and remove promptly if found</p>	
	<p>Follow the Countryside Code (England &amp; Wales) and Outdoor Access Code (Scotland) <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-countryside-code">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-countryside-code</a></p>	



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	<a href="https://www.outdooraccess-scotland.scot/">https://www.outdooraccess-scotland.scot/</a>	
<b>Communications</b> Is there a chance you could get lost, lose touch with walkers, lose visibility or phone signal?	Other/Detail:  Recce the route in advance Pre-register phone with 999 emergency text service Let somebody know your route, start and finish points and the time you expect to be back	
<b>First Aid</b>	It is recommended that a basic first aid kit is carried on the walk	
<b>Other</b> Consider any other potential hazards for your walk not already covered		