

Although most of our walks take place on relatively benign terrain, there are some common-sense precautions that should be taken by all walk leaders to maximise walkers' enjoyment and minimise risk to people and property.

All walk leaders should:

- Walk the route a few days beforehand to become familiar with it and ensure there are no unforeseen obstacles or difficulties, and that the walk can be completed in a reasonable time, including rest(s).
- Make sure there is adequate provision for car parking at the start.
- Appoint a back marker who knows the route to make sure that no one is left behind; they should have a whistle to alert the rest of the group should any problem arise.
- Check that all walkers are properly equipped for the conditions prevailing on the walk.
- Inform walkers at the start that no one should walk ahead of the leader without permission and that anyone leaving the walk should inform someone else (ideally the leader) before they do so.
- Count the number of walkers at the start and check numbers regularly, particularly at the end of the walk.
- Ensure that all walkers behave in a safe manner, especially when crossing or walking along roads.
- Carry a map, simple first aid kit, whistle, and mobile phone, plus other safety equipment appropriate to the walk.
- Be prepared to alter the route of the walk if circumstances dictate this; for instance, bad weather or an accident.
- Try to give information of historical, geographical or environmental interest on the walk.
- Report footpath obstructions to a member of the WDFG committee.
- Understand that the aim of our walks is enjoyment, not merely achievement.