

Battle & District U3A Walking Groups

Walk coordinator		When walks take place <i>(i.e. Third Monday of month)</i>	
u3a group:		Date of risk assessment	
		<i>There are always two members coordinating and leading walks</i>	

Controlling risks	Action taken? (click on the box to tick)
Carry out a recce prior to the walk with another member and advise group of conditions & additional information such as number of stiles, other hazards	<input type="checkbox"/>
Check for muddy/slippy sections on the recce and adapt the route if necessary. Advise walkers to bring suitable footwear for the conditions.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Check paths are suitable for a group to use safely and make changes if necessary.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Check the weather forecast and postpone/cancel if necessary. Advise walkers to bring suitable clothing and items for the conditions.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Give clear information about limiting the group size	<input type="checkbox"/>
Remind walkers beforehand about the guidelines, including on travel & transport.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ensure you have a record of who will be attending the walk and their contact details.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ensure that one walk leader is at the front and the other at the rear of the group.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cross fields with livestock calmly and quietly, keeping the group together. Be prepared to divert around livestock if necessary.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Follow any local warnings or signs, and advise walkers to keep away from the edge.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Follow the Countryside Code (England & Wales) and Access Code (Scotland). Leave gates and property as you find them.	<input type="checkbox"/>

Additional information

How to carry out a risk assessment

This template is a tool to help you plan and lead walking safely. You must do a risk assessment for each walk.

- Use the template to assess whether your Ramblers group walk is safe to go ahead.
- We've included suggestions for the ways to control the risks – **you do not need to tick every box**. The important thing is to identify the potential hazards and note the actions you will take to reduce the risk.
- It's important to carry out a risk assessment **before** the walk takes place. You should start filling it out when planning your walk, and update it with any extra hazards that you notice on your recce.
- Think about the different types of hazards and risks. We've included some common examples, but think carefully about your own walk in case anything needs adding.

Examples of other risks might include:

- Flooded paths, after heavy rain
- Incoming tide for coastal routes
- Unexploded ordnance (if walking on a right of way across a military site)

This isn't an exhaustive list, so think carefully about any specific risks you may encounter on your walk.

- Next, consider the steps you can take to minimise the risk. Remember that this may sometimes mean changing your original plan. For example:
 - I will recce the route again to check whether the paths are flooded, and plan an alternative if necessary
 - I will check the local tide times and adjust the walk start time
 - I will read the local warning signs on my recce and advise walkers about the risks in my welcome briefing