

Walk Leader Briefing/Refresher

Pontypool Ramblers



Ramblers UK Guiding Principles



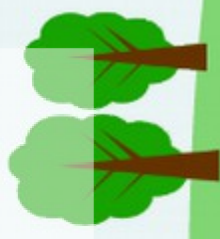
Walk Leading

- Choosing a Walk
- Walk Leader Requirements
- Recce's & Risk Assessments
- Walk Details
- Walk Preparation
- Starting the Walk
- Leading the Walk
- Training



Choosing a Walk

- 1st Walk – Choose a route you know well
- Find Routes on Ramblers website, OS Routes, Guide Books & Magazines
- Location, length & timing, time of year
- Type of terrain, climbs, descents
- Points of Interest
- Car Parking, Toilets & Refreshments



Walk Leading Requirements

As a walk leader there are certain things you must do:



Plan and assess the risks in advance

We have example risk assessments according to walk difficulty to help you get started.



Adapt plans to local circumstances

Adopt or adapt our resources in a way that works for you to manage any specific considerations for your walk.



Share your plan with walkers

You can do this in your welcome briefing at the start of the walk before setting off.



Make changes if you need to

Stay alert to your surroundings and walkers and take a dynamic approach on the day.

• Recce's & Risk Assessments

- Pre-walk to check the route
- (so you know where you are going!)
- Identify any hazards & problems
- Identify escape & alternative routes
- Choose rest & lunch stops
- Clear brambles, etc or request clearance
- Complete a Risk Assessment



Group Walks | Risk Assessment

Every walk is different, so complete a risk assessment for each one you lead to help you plan and make a note of the steps you are taking to keep walkers safe. After a walk, risk assessments should be stored for three years. Each walk leader can keep their own risk assessments, or groups can choose someone to look after them.

Have a great walk!

Who is leading the walk?

Name:

Group:

Dates (DD/MM/YY)

Walk:

Risk assessment:

Recce:

Hazards Make a note of any hazards to walkers or others on your route	Precautions Tick the boxes that apply and add any others – you don't need to tick every box.	
Weather What is the forecasted weather? Is there any danger of extreme temperatures, heavy rainfall or other severe weather events?	Check the weather forecast and postpone/cancel if necessary	
	Advise walkers to bring suitable clothing and items for the conditions	
	Make a note of 'escape routes' on the recce	
	Other/Detail:	

Group Walks | Risk Assessment

Traffic Do you need to cross or walk along a road? Are there any level crossings?		Check for suitable crossing places on the recce	
		Communicate clearly with the group on the day	
		Maintain single file on any road sections	
		Other/Detail:	
Path surface and obstacles Are there hazards such as slippery paths, loose rocks, stiles, fallen trees, steep drops?		Check for hazards on the recce and adapt the route if needed	
		Provide clear information to walkers beforehand	
		Advise walkers to bring suitable footwear for the conditions	
		Other/Detail:	
Animals Will you pass livestock? Is there any danger of ticks or bites/stings?		Let walkers know to cross fields with livestock calmly and quietly, keeping the group together. Be prepared to divert if needed	
		Leave gates and property as you find them	
		Advise walkers to check for ticks and remove promptly if found	
		Other/Detail:	



Group Walks | Risk Assessment

Communications Is there a chance you could get lost, lose touch with walkers, lose visibility or phone signal?		Reccce the route in advance	
		Pre-register phone with 999 emergency text service	
		Let somebody know your plans and the time you expect to be back	
		Other/Detail:	
Other Add any other hazards on your walk here.		Follow any national or local Covid-19 restrictions	
		Other/Detail:	

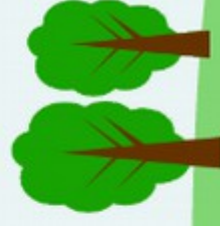
If you have any questions about **Rambblers group walks**, please get in touch: volunteersupport@ramblers.zendesk.com

• Walk Details

- Date, Start Time & Estimated Finish Time
- Walk Name & Brief Description
- Length, Grade & Ascent
- Meeting Point
- Leader & Contact Details

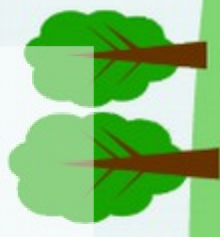


Date/Time	Walk Details	Meeting Point	Leader
Sunday 21st Start 10am Finish 3-4pm	The Lonely Shepherd and Llangattock Escarpment Approx. 9m/14.5km - Strenuous <i>From Crickhowell we cross the bridge to take paths across fields and ascend via an old green lane past a disused church that is now a bat roost. We will then take a track across moorland to the Lonely Shepherd. We return via paths below the Escarpment and then downhill via lane and tracks to Llangattock and then Crickhowell.</i> Approx. total ascent 1380ft/420m	Crickhowell High School Car Park. New Road, Crickhowell (Free) OS Explorer: OL13 Brecon Beacons National Park (Eastern Area) GR: S0 21640 18550 NPC: NP8 1DE WTW: definite.expectant.purest Lat: 51.860118 Long: -3.139213 Google Maps: NP8 1DE	Hilary Smart 07549 338322 PLEASE MESSAGE LEADER TO BOOK A PLACE



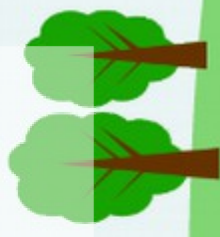
• Walk Preparation

- Check the Weather Forecasts
- (Postpone or Cancel if necessary)
- Check Personal Gear
- First Aid Kit
- Phone Charged
- Register Attendees
- Answer Queries
- Arrive Early



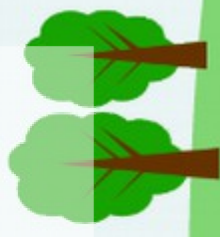
• Starting the Walk

- Welcome Walkers – particularly new people
- Check Attendees against Register
- Make sure everyone is suitably equipped
- Give Overview of the Walk
 - How long, timings, points of interest, any hazards
- Back Marker – Comfort Breaks
- Answer Questions



• Leading the Walk

- Walk at the correct pace for the group
- Stay on route, but be prepared to change
- Stay in sight of whole group, including backmarker
- Pause regularly, to let group catch up & mingle
- Give warnings before hazards
- Enjoy & chat with friends & new people
- Ending - Thank everyone for coming



• Training

<https://ramblersvolunteertaining-ramblers.talentms.com/dashboard>

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courses not passed

5

completed courses

3h 30m

training time

2

certificates

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Mandatory Walk Leader Training

Preventing and managing incidents

Completed

The Walk Leader Handbook

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Walk Leadership Foundations

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Volunteer Training

Safeguarding module one

Completed

Volunteer welcome

Completed