

Walk Leader's Checklist

BEFORE THE WALK

Choose the Route

- area, length/timing, circular/linear, consider terrain/elevation/ascent/season/strength of party
- from map or guidebook or combination, research points of interest
- transport options, check timings, lunch options, rest stops, bad weather alternatives/escape routes
- write route card

Recce (preferably with backmarker)

- walk full route, note critical navigation points and bearings, assess risks, adjust route/escape routes if necessary, check timings, check rest and toilet stops
- describe in Group programme, following its usual format

THE DAY BEFORE

- check and assess weather forecast, review alternative routes if necessary
- check personal gear and first aid kit
- check public transport, warn pub

These notes are for guidance. For full advice on how to organise and lead a walk, see the official Ramblers manual *Navigation and Leadership*, available from your Group or Ramblers central office.

The Ramblers



www.ramblers.org.uk

Registered Charity Number 1093577

ON THE DAY – AT THE START

- be early, be welcoming, especially to newcomers
- check fitness and equipment of party, identify anyone with special needs
- appoint a backmarker
- look after people new to the Group, give membership joining details to non-members
- advise dog owners of Group policy
- introduction: welcome, yourself, walk details, points of special interest, refreshment and rest stops, estimated return time
- count party, note numbers and signal the start

ON THE DAY – THE WALK

- stay at or near the front, check often you can see your backmarker
- set a reasonable pace, watch for stragglers
- concentrate on navigation, check timing against route card
- manage: flow of party/regrouping/passage past gates and stiles/impact on countryside/rest stops
- be alert to problems (individual, weather, road walking, etc), involve others in party as necessary
- enjoy the walk!

AT THE END OF THE WALK

- check everyone has returned and can get home
- report any incidents and obstructions to Group officers

Please remember to hand out membership forms to those who are not yet Ramblers members. To request forms call **020 7339 8500**.

Ramblers' Association:
020 7339 8500

Ramblers Wales:
029 2064 4308

Ramblers Scotland:
01577 861222

www.ramblers.org.uk
ramblers@ramblers.org.uk