



Great Glen Walking Club

Responsibilities of the Walk Leader

i. Preparation

- Choose the route.
- Undertake a pre-walk to establish parking arrangements, timings, identify potential hazards, and alternative/ escape routes where necessary. If possible this will be undertaken with a companion who can serve as back-marker.
- Liaise with estate staff where appropriate to ensure there is no clash with estate activities such as grouse or deer shooting.
- Assess the walking grade (see below), and prepare a descriptive paragraph for the Walks Programme which accurately describes any challenges and hazards.

ii. The day before

- Check and assess weather forecast (and for coastal walks, tide times); consider alternative route or walk if necessary.
- Check personal gear and first aid kit.

iii. At the rendezvous point

- Identify and discuss with any member of the party who appears unfit or ill-equipped for the planned walk. If you judge that, in their own interests an individual should not participate, say so clearly. Should they choose to proceed, let them know this is at their own risk.
- Identify any member of the group with special needs.
- Remind the group of hazards and challenges.
- Take a register of those attending on the appropriate record sheet.

iv. On the walk

- Appoint a back marker at the outset. If there group is particularly large it may also be appropriate to appoint a middle marker.
- Take a count of numbers.
- Remain at or near the front. Set an appropriate pace with regard to the terrain and the composition of the group. Keep the back marker in sight.
- Pay attention to navigation. GPS navigational aids can be very helpful, but a map and compass should always be carried.

- Respond appropriately to any untoward incident. A single blast on a whistle means "stop".
 - Remain conscious of, and responsive to, developing hazards and members of the group who may be struggling. Take appropriate rest and refreshment stops, adjust pace and route as necessary.
- v. After the walk
- Check everyone has returned safely and can get home.
 - In the rare event that an untoward incident has taken place during the walk, complete and submit an Incident Report Form.
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WALK GRADINGS

The key to grades of walks shown on our walk programme is as follows:

- A** Hill walking with **ascent** over 1500 feet, or lower level walks over 15 miles.
- B+** Greater than **B** but less than **A**.
- B** Lesser hill up to 1500ft ascent, or moorland/ low level walks between 11 – 14 miles.
- C+** Greater than **C** but less than **B**.
- C** Low level walking 6 – 10 miles, possibly including some minor ascents up to 1000ft.
- D** Up to 6 miles, and all evening walks.

It should be noted that 'C' walks are not short or half day 'A' or 'B' walks. They are provided so that the club can meet its objective of catering for all ages and walking strengths.