

DECEMBER 2021

## STROUD RAMBLING CLUB SAFE CONDUCT POLICY FOR WALK LEADERS

### A PREPARATION

1. Consider the journey time to the walk start point. This is very important for afternoon winter walks with limited daylight.
2. Unexpected delays can occur during any walk. Always allow sufficient safety time from the planned end time of the walk until dusk – at least 30 minutes is recommended from November to March.
3. Only established rights of way or designated open access land shall be used. Minimise time walked on roads where you could expect regular traffic.
4. It is recommended that you make a walkover of the route, ideally within one month before the walk. If this is not practicable you must be sure that the line of the walk is possible without due hazard – do not rely on guide books.
5. Complete a Leader's Form with requested information and send to Programme Secretary. Walks are programmed three months in advance of the quarterly programme.
6. It is recommended that you consider first aid training as the group will look to you in case of an accident. However, all members walk at their own risk.
7. Advance warn any pubs that you intend to use.

### B CONDUCT OF THE WALK

1. Arrive at the start in good time (usually at Leisure Centre)
2. Welcome group, especially any new members and note any non-members on "trial visit" and report to an officer.
3. Operate mileage pool and instruct drivers clearly to the start point and car parking facilities.
4. Leader should carry 1:50000 map of walk area and compass, or 1:25000 (Preferred).
5. Check numbers at start and often during walk.
6. For a large group consider appointing a back marker and make sure everyone knows who it is.
7. Leader SHOULD carry own first aid kit.
8. Walk single file on planted fields or newly ploughed land with poorly defined pathway.
9. At roads, ensure and control a safe crossing point and check numbers.
10. Walk along roads in single file usually facing oncoming traffic unless road conditions allow a less hazardous route. Instruct group of possible dangers on joining the road and tell group to keep close, adjusting your pace to achieve this.
11. Agreed minimum kit shall be used or carried by all members on Grade 4 (see separate list).
12. Ensure club conditions for walking with dogs are followed.

### C AFTER THE WALK

1. Ensure everyone has transport to return.
2. Report any serious problem or accident to a club officer as soon as possible.
3. Report any right of way problem to the Access and Rights of Way Officer (756029)