

BOLTON WALKING AND OUTDOORS APPRECIATION SOCIETY

Safety Guide for Monday and Wednesday walks – June 2025

BWOAS is a group of volunteers, friends and acquaintances organising informal walks in the community. New people are welcome to join in but it is important to note that the outings are NOT professionally guided in any capacity and are peer led. However, an effort is collectively upheld to make sure that the walks are as safe for everybody as they possibly can be by applying the following procedures...



ALL PARTICIPANTS over the age of eighteen must book onto walks via the BWOAS Ticket Tailor platform and MUST sign up themselves using their own contact details, confirming they have read the safety guide and all provided information.

A parent/guardian must assume full responsibility for any children or young people under the age of eighteen in their care.

If an individual is unable to make the walk, please use the “MANAGE TICKETS” option to cancel and free up the space.



ALL PARTICIPANTS must be suitably equipped for each outing. This includes wearing sturdy/suitable footwear for the terrain as detailed in any posts or info about the specific walk, and dressing appropriately for weather conditions. Even in summer, a torch and warm layers should be carried. Poles are always recommended. Persons arriving poorly equipped will be turned away.

PARTICIPANTS WHO USE THEIR OWN PERSONAL MEDICATION SHOULD CARRY IT AT ALL TIMES AT THEIR OWN RESPONSIBILITY.

DOGS MUST BE ON LEADS AND UNDER CONTROL AT ALL TIMES.

The aim of the group is to provide a safe and supportive environment for all to enjoy the outdoors and improve their lifestyle. Anybody choosing to attend a BWOAS does so in the understanding that they are wholly responsible for their own actions, safety and belongings.



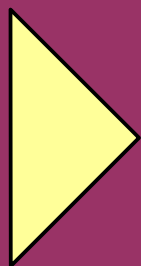
There is always an adequate number of VOLUNTEERS on every walk. Volunteers are experienced members BWOAS who are there to advise and generally manage the group, but ARE IN NO WAY RESPONSIBLE for the safety of participants or their belongings. Volunteers will be identified at the start of a walk.

Volunteers will be evenly spaced throughout the group, including one posted at the front and one at the back throughout. It is intended that group sizes should not exceed 1:8 (and will never exceed 1:12) volunteer to participant ratio so that all in attendance are close to a volunteer if assistance should be needed or in the case of emergencies.

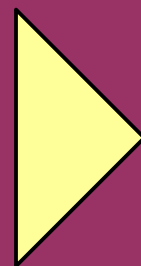
Volunteers are familiar with the route, risk assessment, predetermined regrouping points and what terrain will be encountered on each walk. Volunteers are also equipped with a first aid kit, radio and will have suitable digital or physical mapping.



BEFORE THE WALK there will be an initial attendance check to account for everybody on the list. There is always an informal brief to the whole group detailing what to expect on the walk, who the volunteers are and a chance to ask any questions.



DURING THE WALK volunteers will be on hand should any assistance be required. Advice and guidance will be given where appropriate along the way.



DURING THE WALK, a moderate pace suitable for everybody in the group will be managed throughout.

There will be regular stops at suitable predetermined locations in order to regroup and complete a head count.

