

AMENDMENTS TO THE WALKS PROGRAMME

Although every effort is made to adhere to the programme, it does very occasionally happen that details of a published walk need to be amended. Leaders have committed themselves to dates which may well be over a year ahead. In addition, unforeseen road works or extremely adverse weather conditions (such as we saw last winter and during the floods of 2007) may make it impossible to reach the advertised starting point or to walk the planned route.

The Area Council meeting in June 2010 considered suggestions made by Area and Group walks co-ordinators as to how we can best publicise any amendments to the programme. We need to bear in mind that programmed walks have been advertised not just to our own membership but to the public at large via the Walks Finder on both our own and the national Ramblers website. The following circumstances were considered and proposals made for a common Area policy (in italics):

1 If the named leader is unavailable

This can happen due to illness, injury or perhaps an unforeseen family event. Current practice is that the designated leader attempts to find his or her own replacement. Otherwise the relevant group secretary and/or rambles co-ordinator need to be informed and the group will attempt to find a replacement. On very rare occasions, this has proved impossible, in which case the Area committee has been approached for assistance in finding a new leader to enable the walk to go ahead.

- *If a new leader is found at group level, there is no need to involve the Area Walks Co-ordinator or to make changes to the Walks Finder.*
- *No walk should be cancelled until steps have been taken at Group and Area level to find a replacement leader.*
- *In the worst case scenario, if no replacement leader can be found at short notice, someone should go to the start point to inform walkers of the situation. Email can be used to contact as many walkers as possible in advance, but this cannot be relied upon to reach all potential participants.*

2 If the start point is inaccessible

- *In the event of severe weather or road works, any cancellation or amendment will be advertised on the Ramblers Walks Finder and also, where possible, on Area and Group websites.*
- *If severe weather is forecast, it is the walker's responsibility to check the Walks Finder and websites for amendments (or to phone a friend who can) or as a last resort to phone the relevant Group Secretary before setting off for the walk.*

3 If the planned route is unwalkable or hazardous

The start may actually be accessible but the planned route could be obstructed or hazardous. Walking in deep snow, for example, is particularly strenuous and a shorter route might be considered in such conditions.

- *Both the route and the distance can be altered at the leader's discretion.*
- *It is not necessary to amend the Walks Finder if an alternative walk from the advertised start point can go ahead.*

A Group Secretary, Rambles Secretary or walk leader who proposes to make an amendment to the Walks Finder should contact one of the following three people:

| | | |
|---------------|--|--------------|
| Roy Hunt | roy_hunt@btopenworld.com | 01430 440272 |
| Malcolm Dixon | m.s.dixon@talktalk.net | 01904 706850 |
| Ray Fielden, | rayfielden@rayfielden.karoo.co.uk | 01482 882499 |

If the change is agreed, please notify the relevant Group Secretary.