

MYDDELTON GRANGE WALK

RISK ASSESSMENT

Our grounds are much more extensive than most visitors realise and we have created a new walk that leads us around them. The walk is an easy circular one at no point more than an estimated three-quarters of a mile from Myddelton Grange.

We will use the walk for groupwork. This will not involve outdoor pursuits or serious physical exertion of any kind but exercises intended to support the theme of the retreat. At times, an adult will not directly supervise the groups but members of the Retreat Team and visiting teachers will be at several checkpoints and the walk will be monitored throughout. If the walk is undertaken in poor weather conditions, there will be close supervision. At all times, one member of our Retreat Team who is qualified in First Aid will follow the walkers around the circuit.

All those taking this walk will be given maps and told to follow the directions closely and not to deviate from the route indicated. The path is also indicated by yellow flashes painted on to tree trunks and fence posts.

Clothing

The year round, we ask those coming on retreat to bring sensible outdoor clothing. Especially in autumn and winter months, rainwear and strong footwear with good gripping soles will be needed.

Terrain

For the most part, the terrain is flat, but the path leads down and up stream embankments at certain points. In Old Wives' Ghyll, the bank is steep but not to the extent that it becomes a climb. In Ings Ghyll, there is a very steep bank to one of the streams that comes into the wood, but our path does not go near it.

A stile takes the walkers over one fence, and wooden bridges lead them over the ghyll streams at six points. These are small woodland streams that are never deep at any part.

Walkers will be told what to expect and to behave sensibly on the embankments and by the streams.

MAGNITUDE OF RISK - **low 6**

Barbed wire

In order to establish the walk, we have had to erect stock fencing topped by barbed wire. For the lengthy wooded sections of the walk, the fencing is at some distance but on parts of the flat stretches and the banks leading to streams, it is close to the path. On these stretches, where there is the possibility of walkers reaching out to the fence for support especially in bad weather, the barbed wire has been removed.

Walkers will be warned about the barbed wire.

MAGNITUDE OF RISK - **low 4**