



WALK LEADER ASSESSMENT NAVIGATION SKILLS REQUIREMENTS

All using an OS 1:25000 map and a compass. Navigating using electronic devices is not permitted on the assessment.

LOWLAND NAVIGATION

For Leading in lowland and coastal areas.

You will be assessed on your ability to navigate efficiently in urban, agricultural and low level wooded or open terrain. You will be set navigation targets such as; bridges, clear path/road junctions and buildings of interest to demonstrate the following skills.

- Understanding the relevant map symbols, and scales.
- The ability to measure distances on the map and on the ground.
- Some ability to interpret contour formations and relate them to features on the ground.
- Understanding the principle of the magnetic compass, and ability to identify the cardinal points, and use these in conjunction with the map to determine your direction.
- The ability to use appropriate relocation strategies if lost:
- The ability to make appropriate route choices in the event of having to deviate from your planned route.
- Ability to use six figure grid references.
- An ability to orientate the map to the ground.
- Use of linear features as “handrails”.

MOORLAND NAVIGATION

For leading in moorland areas.

In addition to the skills above you will be assessed on your ability to navigate efficiently in moorland terrain, with limited linear features to assist navigation. You will be set navigation targets such as; stream junctions, swallow holes, ruins and large/medium contour features e.g. col/spur all up to 500m away from marked paths and linear features.

- Ability to judge distance travelled on the ground using techniques such as pacing or timing.

- Ability to use six figure grid references.
- An ability to orientate the map to the ground.
- The ability to make appropriate route choices in the event of having to deviate from your planned route.
- An ability to navigate away from linear features in poor visibility and/or darkness.
- Contour interpretation skills, appropriate to moorland terrain.
- The ability to take accurate magnetic bearings from the map and use them for direction finding on the ground over long distances.
- The use of simplification strategies like attack points and aiming off, check points, coarse & fine navigation.
- The ability to employ appropriate relocation strategies.

There will also be a night navigation element to the moorland assessment where we test your ability to map read in the dark.

MOUNTAIN NAVIGATION

For leading in mountain areas.

In addition to the skills required for lowland and moorland navigation, you will be assessed on your ability to navigate efficiently in mountain terrain, which is open, uncultivated and remote (more than half an hour's travelling time from a road or refuge). This type of terrain is prone to restricted visibility due to bad weather, and linear features are often lacking or misleading. You will be set navigation targets off marked paths such as; stream junctions, mountain tarns and small contour features e.g. re-entrant/spur/knoll.

- An ability to utilise contours and fine detail as the prime method of navigation.
- A reliable method of distance judgement in various types of terrain, either by pacing or timing. This should be sufficiently accurate to be of significant use on featureless terrain/in restricted visibility and/or darkness.
- Use of map and compass for "continuous relocation", by such techniques as a "check list" of contour features such as changes in slope angle and aspect, bearings along line features or on slope aspect, and back bearings from identifiable points.
- An ability to navigate safely and accurately through hazards.
- An understanding of the special physical and navigational demands of high mountain and moor, and the effects of fatigue and discomfort on decision making.

There will also be a night navigation element to the mountain assessment where we test your ability to map read in the dark.