



VALEWAYS

Assistance Dogs on Walks Policy

Adopted December 2023

Valeways walks are for everyone, but there are some safety considerations. Walkers must be fit and well enough to complete the walk, and children under 18 must be accompanied by a responsible adult. People with disabilities are welcome if they are able to complete the walk safely, and they may bring a fully trained assistance dog on some walks where the dog will not pose a risk.

Under no circumstances will any other dog be allowed on walks.

If an assistance dog shows any sign of not being under control during a walk, the walker will be asked to leave the walk.

Stroller walks

Most of these are suitable for assistance dogs. The potential walker should contact the walk leader in advance and let them know that they wish to bring their assistance dog on the walk. The dog must be a fully trained assistance dog and must be kept on a harness or short lead at its owner's side for the duration of the walk.

Other walks

Assistance dogs cannot be brought on walks that go through fields with livestock, as that poses a risk to everyone on the walk.

Most one- to three-boot walks pass through areas with uneven terrain, narrow paths and stiles, some of which are quite high. Those could prove challenging for a person walking with an assistance dog. There are some one- or two-boot walks that stick to roads and even paths, and assistance dogs could be welcomed on such walks. The dog must be a fully trained assistance dog and must be kept on a harness or short lead close to its owner for the duration of the walk.

Walkers who wish to bring an assistance dog on a one- to three-boot walk should contact Valeways at least 14 days before the walk so that an appropriate risk assessment can be completed.

Policy Review

The Trustees have a responsibility to review this policy every two years.

Copies of all other Valeways policies are available on the Valeways website.