Walking the Wolds – Cottam Round 25th October 2026

What are the hazards?	Who might be harmed and how?	What are you already doing to control the risks?	What further action do you need to take to control the risks?	Who needs to carry out the action?	When is the action needed by?
Toilets	No toilets are available at the start and finish or on route		Go before you arrive!	Walkers	On the day
Other dogs on the road when you arrive	Dogs may react to other dogs arriving to take part.	Dogs kept on leads and under supervised control by owners	Owners to read risk assessment posted on WTW web site	Dog Owners	On the day
Wet weather	People may become cold and uncomfortable.	People to dress appropriately for the weather, bringing waterproof clothing, gloves and hats if required, plus waterproof footwear.	Owners to read risk assessment posted on WTW web site	Walkers / SM	Prior to the walk and on the day
Uneven ground, slippery, muddy and wet underfoot	People may slip, trip and fall.	Advise to wear suitable footwear and bring walking poles if required.	Advise to take care on the day and lead the group slowly if ground becomes slippery	Walkers / SM	Prior to the walk and on the day
Dog mess created along the route	Wild animals and crops	Advise on responsible dog ownership prior to setting off.	SM to carry spare doggy bags	Walkers / SM	On the day
Sown and sprayed fields	Dogs and crops	Keep dogs to paths and on leads if they tend to run off. Recall dogs immediately if they stray onto fields. Do not let dogs eat crops	Owners to read risk assessment posted on WTW web site	Walkers / SM	Prior to the walk and on the day

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Game birds and other wildlife	Dogs may run off and chase them	If dogs are likely to chase wildlife, maintain good recall and close contact with your dogs at all times	Owners to read risk assessment posted on WTW web site	Dog Owners	On the day
Cars, Horses or cyclists on Garton Bottom	People may be hit, dogs may be frightened, horses may be frightened.	Advise to keep a watch out for other users and keep dogs on leads if cars, horses / cyclists seen.	Owners to read risk assessment posted on WTW web site	Dog Owners / Walkers	On the day
First aid requirements	Caused by walking in the countryside	SM to carry first aid kit/. Walkers to carry own first aid kits. Advice given along the way if paths uneven or new hazard identified. Steady walking pace.	None	SM	On the day
Emergency Contacts	May be required if accidents occur	SM to gather emergency contacts before setting off	Also carry GPS signalling unit if no phone signal	SM	On the day
People and dogs may become unwell on the walk due to pre-diagnosed conditions	Walking may increase symptoms or exacerbate pre-existing conditions	All walkers to complete a Health Declaration for themselves and their dogs prior to walking and agree that they are fit and able to walk the route. SM to hold all health declarations and to refuse participation if it is felt that the risk is too great. (or that forms are not completed)	Make sure all forms are signed and handed in before a walk	SM & all Walkers	Prior to the walk and on the day.
Walkers / Dogs become unwell	People fall ill and cannot continue or fall behind	Advise on difficulty of walk, for people to decide if they	Post a back-marker & mid-walker (with high vis-vests	SM / Back marker	Prior to the walk and on the day.

		are able to undertake it (and if their dogs can do the same).	and walkie-talkies) to ensure no one is left. SM to keep in contact with back and mid-markers and walk at a pace that all walkers can do.		
Livestock (sheep)	May come across sheep in Cottam Well Dale	Dogs kept on leads and under supervised control by owners.	Restate on the day as we approach- put dogs back on leads if they are off-lead and keep under very close control. To walk in single file past any livestock	Dog Owners and SM	On the day
Approaching other walkers and dogs	Dogs may be reactive (ours or theirs)	Put dogs back in leads	Keep to the side of the path and let others walk by	Dog Owners	On the day
Approach to road when coming back to Garton Bottom	Dogs may run onto road if not on leads	Take short cut off road	Put dogs back on leads as we approach road – there is a gate (but just in case it is open)	Dog Owners	On the day