



CHILTERN
CONSERVATION BOARD

Chilterns Walking Festival and Covid-19

27.8.2020

The autumn Chilterns Walking Festival (CWF) will take place from 18 October to 1 November 2020. Additional measures will be in place to minimise Covid-19 risk. Measures are based on the latest government guidance and will be reviewed regularly.

The Chilterns Conservation Board and all partner organisations delivering CWF walks/events will take the following measures:

Walk providers will:

- **Limit the number of people attending CWF walks** to comply with [government rules](#). This currently allows for up to 30 people “for events in public outdoor spaces that are organised by public bodies, provided they take reasonable steps to mitigate the risk of transmission, in line with COVID-19 secure guidance and including completion of a risk assessment.”
However, most walk organisers are limiting numbers to fewer than 30, mostly around 10 walkers. Larger groups will have more than one walk leader and the group will be split with staggered start times.
- **Review and update Risk Assessments** to include the new COVID-19 risks and control measures.
- **Review walking routes** to, where reasonably practicable:
 - Anticipate, and aim to avoid, pinch points such as prolonged narrow paths, gates and stiles. Where avoidance is not practical, work with other users to navigate pinch points whilst maintaining the required social distancing applicable at the time of the walk.
 - Avoid the need to touch access furniture: many gates can be operated using the crook of an elbow, foot, or walking pole, thus avoiding direct hand contact. Where this is not possible, endeavour to use (and ask participants to use) a hand covering to operate gate mechanisms or climb stiles.
- **Maintain enhanced personal hygiene**, as advised by government, at all times, and ask walk participants to do the same.
- As part of the pre-walk briefings, and during the walk if necessary, **remind participants to maintain the required social distancing** and to stay alert and act responsibly.
- Where a visit to third party premises (such as a pub or cafe) is planned as part of a walk, this will be **visited in advance** to review whether the group can be reasonably accommodated in the context of Covid-19 safety measures.

Walk participants: how you can help

As a condition of booking and attending CWF walks we ask that walk participants read and adhere to the advice below. We continue to monitor government advice and will update this statement, as appropriate.

- You should make your own personal decisions about contact with others and whether or not to join one of our walks. Personal circumstances vary and some will want to be more cautious than others, particularly if the participant or one of their household is 'vulnerable'.
- If you think you may have **any** symptoms linked to COVID-19, or have been exposed to the virus in the 14 days prior to the walk, **do not** come to the walk. Remember to check [government advice](#). If you appear to be displaying any symptoms during the walk, the walk leader will discuss this with you and may ask you not to continue walking with the group.
- If you have attended a CWF walk during a period when you think you may have been infected with the COVID-19 virus, it is important that you let the Chilterns Conservation Board know so that we can take any appropriate action. Contact Annette Venters on aweiss@chilternsaonb.org or call 01844 355500.

Attending Walks: When attending walks, walk providers will ask the following of participants:

- Book walk in advance (see below).
- Arrive for their walk 15 minutes early to allow time for a Covid-19 safety information briefing by walk leaders (reminder about social distancing, potential hazards along the way etc).
- Comply with the social distancing rules pertaining at the time of the walk.
- Carry their own water, food, personal first aid and hand sanitiser.
- Avoid touching gates and stiles if possible: many gates can be operated using the crook of an elbow, or walking pole, avoiding hand contact entirely. Where this is not possible, use a hand covering to operate gate mechanisms or climb stiles.
- Follow government advice regarding the need for enhanced personal hygiene – wash hands before and after attending a walk and carry and use hand sanitiser after any contact with surfaces.
- Respect others, act responsibly at all times and stay alert.

Booking

- Prior booking for all walks is essential so that we can limit numbers and operate a track and trace system if needed. Maximum walk capacity will be strictly adhered to.
- Once a walk has reached its maximum capacity a place on the waiting list will be offered.
- The booking information will contain a disclaimer along the following lines *“By completing the booking you are confirming that you do not have any COVID-19 symptoms, nor have you been required to self-isolate either due to being contacted by track and trace services, or due to recently returning from an overseas destination that is not on the exempt list of countries for self-isolation”*.
- All CWF communications with walk participants will include information on COVID-19 and a link to the Chilterns Conservation Board’s latest COVID-19 statement.
- People will be informed if we need to cancel a walk. Please check your phones and emails for any messages before you leave home for your walk.

If you have any queries or would like further Information on the above please contact Annette at the Chilterns Conservation Board aweiss@chilternsaonb.org