

Safety on Steep Ground

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What is steep ground?

- Any ground that is too steep to walk comfortably
- Does not include climbing where a rope is needed
- Never climb higher than head height

Before venturing onto steep
ground ask yourself

***“Is there a more
appropriate way round?”***

- Be prepared to have to ascend or descend to find another route if it becomes dangerous
 - Do not endanger others
 - Be careful not to dislodge rocks
- You never know, there could be another group below
- While ascending, the steep ground is often visible so you can plan your way
 - While descending, the steep ground is obscured and difficult to plan

Safety on Steep Ground

When venturing onto steep ground we need to be more cautious

This involves little more than applying common sense to the way we look after ourselves and others

Likelihood and Consequences

- If the likelihood of a slip is high, but the consequence is small,
- Or if the consequence is high and the likelihood small, we could leave people to use their own common sense
- But if both likelihood and consequence are high, then we need to take some action to help each other to prevent a slip and safeguard each other

Spotting

Stand in an appropriate place to assist someone or to arrest a slip this is usually from below make sure that you are in a safe place, and brace yourself

Safe haven

Relates to a physical and mental place areas where you can rest without danger of falling or slipping a place where you can regroup and plan your next move

Scouting

Survey the terrain ahead of you

Try and think at least two moves ahead

Assessment

When you look at an area of steep ground ask yourself these questions

Is there a more appropriate way around?

Is there a safe haven on the other side to rest and regroup?

Is it within my abilities?

Is it within my fellow walkers abilities?

What is the likelihood and consequence of a slip?

Does it need to be safeguarded?

How and where can I 'spot' other people?