

Brenin Adventures

Geocaching – Operational procedures



Staffing & Ratios

Appropriate qualifications:

- MT.UK BEL / in house trained & assessed for normal country / defined local routes set by Management
- ML.UK WGL for open country
- ML.UK ML for wild country

Ratio 1 instructor : 10 clients

Minimum of 4 participants per group when operating under wild remote supervision.

Instructors working alone must have an effective way of communicating with the centre base.

Weather limitations

Due regard must be taken of the prevailing and predicted weather conditions.

Groups should not operate in exposed wooded areas in high winds. With appropriate clothing and restriction on route / operating area it should be able to operate in winds of up to F7-8. Routes need to be dynamically risk assessed with regard to exposure to the wind / weather.

In winter conditions suitably qualified / experienced staff must supervise operation, and routes need to be individually risk assessed with regard to the prevailing / predicted weather and underfoot conditions.

Venues

Hafren Forest / Bryn y Fan / The Point, Llyn Clywedog / Trannon Forest / Onsite Broneirion / Llanidloes Woods

Any suitable course, following site specific assessment.

Instructor equipment

Instructors should be equipped with:

- Map & compass
- First aid kit
- Headtorch (if appropriate)
- Group shelter
- Sunblock [if appropriate]
- Hot drink / water [as appropriate]
- Two way radio [where more than one group is operating at the same venue]
- Mobile phone
- Spare clothing [i.e. spare hat, warm jacket, survival blanket] appropriate to the conditions
- Sleeping bag if working in wild / remote country

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Participant equipment

Participants should be equipped with:

- Walking boots [if terrain dictates as appropriate]
- Long trousers [if route requires of path walking]
- Clothing appropriate to conditions
- Rucksack
- Waterproof jacket & trousers [weather dependant]
- Spare fleece / jumper
- Water
- Hat & gloves / sun hat [as appropriate]

General Procedures

Before the start of any session, instructors must be fully aware of any medical conditions that may affect participation, and any specific requirements of the group.

Route details, escape routes and expected return times must be left in / notified to the centre office before departure.

Ensure you brief the group fully. Your briefing must include;

- Activity description / goals
- Safety rules / emergency procedures

Group control is very important. The supporting adult needs to understand the site specific risks and their role & responsibilities.

When operating with remote supervision, sub-groups must be clear on the emergency / escape procedures and what to do if they become lost.

The group must be monitored throughout the activity and the session adapted as required [i.e. early finish if group members are tired / cold or progress is overly slow].

The risk assessment must be reviewed on arrival on site to take into account prevailing conditions and recent changes, and monitored throughout the activity session.

Risk factor	Control
Hypothermia / exposure	Appropriate clothing Modification of session / route to account for air / water temperature and group ability Escape routes Spare clothing
Hyperthermia / heat	Appropriate clothing

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stroke	Sunscreen Hats Sufficient water
Slips & trips	Route selection Briefing & group control Appropriate footwear
Cuts, grazes, bites & stings	Appropriate clothing Briefing to avoid stinging / biting plants / animals Care near fences
Drowning	Instructor briefing on operation near water Supervision Route selection to avoid dangerous short-cuts
Falls	Instructor briefing on operation near steep slopes / drops Supervision Route selection to avoid dangerous short-cuts
Inappropriate items in public geocaches	Instructor monitors finds