

The Black Mountains Hillwalking Weekend

18th – 19th April 2026, The Black Mountains (Not The Black Mountain)

A weekend in the mountains of South Wales. Terrain 1 Training and assessment opportunities are on offer or feel free to use it as a base to get in some QMDs (quality mountain days). To keep costs down we'll be camping. We won't be backpacking or wild camping on this trip.

Programme

Saturday will be at least a six-hour walk, the altitude and difficulty of which will depend on the weather conditions. There will be night navigation after dinner. Sunday will be shorter to enable everyone to get back home by the evening.

Cost

Berkshire Scouts are providing this trip at no charge. You will have to pay for the campsite directly, see details below.

Food

Please provide your own food. The Llanthony Priory Hotel is walking distance away and provides food if you don't want to cook.

Venue

Llanthony Court Campsite on the east of the Black Mountains, adjacent to the ruined Grade 1 listed priory. llanthonycamping.co.uk no booking required. The campsite is £5 per night and the farmer will collect money in the morning or pay at the farmhouse. Feel free to organise tent shares etc.

Prerequisites

Within the constraints of staff numbers and the number of courses we're running we will try to stream people into groups based on experience. Even so we have the following general prerequisites to make sure you get the most out of the weekend.

For Terrain 1 training there are no real prerequisites beyond some passion for and experience walking in the hills - so you roughly know what to expect, what to bring and what to wear. I once put 'boots' on a kit list and someone turned up in Ugg Boots - if you can explain why this is a bad idea then you'll be ok.

Assessment candidates should appraise themselves against the [Scout's assessment checklist](#) and may find the far more comprehensive Mountain Training skills checklists useful. Use the [Hill and Moorland Leader Skills Checklist](#) for Terrain 1.

Those wishing to go on a QMD don't need to be experts or even ready for an assessment but should be competent navigators and happy in the hills. The aim of a QMD is to consolidate and practise your skills.

Paperwork and Reservation

To confirm your place, you must complete this [online booking form](#) by 28th March. The campsite spaces are essentially unlimited but the practical limit will be the number of instructors available. If you book but can't attend please let us know ASAP so we can offer your place out.

What to Bring

Please see the end of this document for a suggested kit list. For those on assessment please pack your rucksack as if you were leading a group for the weekend. We can out bothy bags out if you don't have access to them.

Transport

We rely on most people making their own travel arrangements. To make things easier if you need a lift or have some spare seats please let me know and I'll put you all in contact with each other. Budget for about £30 to cover your driver's fuel (your driver will confirm). Give this money to them, not me.

Training and Assessment Candidates

Please can **all training and assessment candidates** email a logbook to the organiser at the latest three weeks before the trip. This will give the staff a few weeks to get through all the logbooks. We have put some comprehensive logbook guidance under Related Content on our website

<https://www.berkshirescouts.org.uk/activities/hillwalking-unit/>

There is no required format for a logbook, see our guidance for more information.

Please can the **assessment candidates** complete the following and email them to the organiser, again, at the latest three weeks before the trip.

1. The theory paper at <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1dvZ0fENbOM-iD8EGezfczKM1VTbwXBTE> (but only questions 1-4).
2. A risk assessment for hill walking (appropriate to your target permit)
3. A route card - this doesn't need to be specific to your target permit

With the last two, we only want you to demonstrate that you can do them. So there's no need to do one especially for us. If you've already got a route card from a hike you did in the Chiltern's over the summer, dust it down and send it in. Likewise, if you have a risk assessment for a hike in the Brecon Beacons and you're going for a Terrain 1 permit assessment - send it in! Feel free to modify them if you want. We do not require a specific format for either route cards or risk assessments. If you want to start from scratch then there's a [route plan on scouts.org.uk](https://www.scouts.org.uk/route-plan/) and [risk assessment guidance](#).

Risk Assessments

Please review the [hillwalking](#) risk assessment. As we're in Terrain 1 there will not be any ropework or steep ground. This risk assessment (and others) are also available at

[berkshirescouts.org.uk/activities/hillwalking-unit](https://www.berkshirescouts.org.uk/activities/hillwalking-unit)

Organiser Contact Details

Harry Canning, harry.canning@gmail.com

Hillwalking Equipment List

This list is not exhaustive

- o Walking boots
- o Waterproof top and bottoms
- o Warm clothing
 - o Fleece tops
 - o Quick drying trousers (e.g. polyester or nylon. No jeans.)
Either bring warm trousers or legging-type base layer to go under your trousers.
 - o Quick drying t-shirts (e.g. polyester or nylon. No cotton.)
 - o Include spares for on the hill.
- o Hat and gloves and spares
- o Day sack - 30-40l e.g. large enough for personal plus leader equipment
- o Compass (We have a few spares)
- o Head torch
- o Personal first aid kit
- o Toilet roll, lighter and trowel (leader kit)
- o Survival bag
- o Whistle
- o Water (min. 2 litres)
- o Emergency rations
- o Maps*
- o Map case or zip lock freezer bag if using the printed maps
- o Lunch for both days

Optional equipment:

- o Gaiters
- o GPS
- o Altimeter
- o Bothy bag
- o Thermos flask

Overnight Equipment

- o Sleeping bag (2/3 season) and pillow
- o Camping mattresses
- o Tent
- o Breakfast and evening meals
- o Personal cooking and eating equipment

*The relevant maps of the area are:

- Ordnance Survey Explorer OL13 or;
- Ordnance Survey Landranger 161 or;
- Harvey Superwalker XT25 Brecon Beacons East

Please feel free to email me or drop me a message in our Facebook group if you have any questions.
facebook.com/groups/berkshire.scouts.hillwalking