



Cork Mountaineering Club

Cumann Sléibhteoireachta Chorcaí

Doing Your Recce

To be a successful leader, you will learn mountain navigation techniques and skills, and you will learn about mountain safety, group responsibility and respect for the mountains. The end result is the tremendous personal satisfaction of a job well done. The most important aspect of leading a walk is thorough preparation, and that means a good recce.

THE THEORY RECCE

The first step is to compile a route card. This means sitting down with your map and compass in the comfort of your own home, and going through the following process:

1. Study the map and select the best route
2. Break the route down into logical sections or “legs”
3. Take the bearing and measure the distance for each leg
4. Calculate the time needed to walk each leg
5. Write down the description, bearing and time needed for each leg
6. Summarising the time and distance for all legs, give the distance and time needed for the whole walk

THE PHYSICAL RECCE

1. Makes the leader familiar with car parking area, entry and exit points
2. Locate early exit points (escape routes) in case of poor weather, mishap or fading light
3. Find suitable place for lunch
4. Make all necessary adjustments to route card (especially timing)
5. In certain areas, meet with the landowner
6. Sort out unexpected problems, *eg* new high fencing, new forestry, new no-access

The purchase of a GPS is strongly recommended, however it does not substitute the requirement for a leader to have (and be able to use) map & compass and a good route card.

The ROUTE CARD: For each leg a good route card will show:

From/to Location or Gr Ref	Magnetic Bearing	Distance	Time for Distance	Height gain	Time for height gain	Total time	Terrain/ comments
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The card will also give the total time for the route and escape or bad-weather safe alternative routes.