

# walk 4 life miles

## Advice on providing digital route data – exporting existing data from GIS

Walk England are now collecting route information as digital data. This note describes the format we can accept this data in.

The digital data we are referring to here is computerised data recording the line of a path.

In some cases this data already exists within a local authority or other organisation's central GIS (Geographical Information System).

If you do not have any such system **stop reading now** – this is not of any interest to you ! For advice on plotting routes yourself before the website goes live please see the 'Plotting routes' advice note.

This is a technical note aimed at people who use digital data. It is likely that some people reading this have access to GIS, or know their organisation has one, but have no understanding of how it works, or how to get the data out. In this case before you read any further and start to get confused the best bet is probably for you to talk to our very friendly and helpful expert Abi on 07914 273271.

Abi will work out what you have got, and whether we can use it, and who is the right person to talk to !

### Which routes ?

We are happy to accept digital data for any routes up to around 5 miles long. This can include potential Walk4Life Miles, short walks around towns or cities, rural routes, walking for health routes or whatever routes you want to share or promote. Further advice on routes is available in the toolkit on [www.walkengland.org.uk](http://www.walkengland.org.uk)

### What format can Walk England accept ?

We can accept route data as .kml files. Each route needs to be exported as an individual file. The kml files will be supported by a spreadsheet. A kml file is what google maps produces and is ideal for website mapping.

## Exporting existing data as .kml files

Most GIS software will enable files to be exported or translated in .kml format.

The Walk4Life portal will store each route as an individual file – it is important that any data you send us has a file for each route – we cannot import a full layer containing lots of routes as one file.

Kml files sometimes export without the necessary coordinate data. Abi Mansley (07914 273271) can advise you on how to make sure your files are correct. You may want to export a single file as a test and send it to Abi for her to check that it has worked correctly.

## Completing the spreadsheet

The data needs to be accompanied by the excel spreadsheet which should have a line of information for each route.

The spreadsheet accompanies this note. We have entered a few rows of sample data to help you understand how it works – please delete these before you start to add your routes.

**Partner name** – Please add the name of your organisation into this column. You will need to repeat it for each line of data. Your name will not show on the website, but adding it here means that the routes will be attributed to you, and we will be able to give you feedback on use of those routes later.

**Filename** – take care to record the filename carefully – it must be identical to the filename of the route, including the .kml extension. Filenames should be all lowercase, with no punctuation or spaces. The filename will not show on the website.

*All of the rest of the data can be changed through the website once it is live. You will have access to your routes and will be able to add to them, or to alter the information.*

**Route name** – This is the name which will show on the website. It can have spaces and capital letters.

**Walk4Life Mile** – if the route is to be a Walk4Life Mile please enter 'TRUE' in this box. If it is not, or if you are not sure please enter FALSE. This can be changed at any time when the data is on the website, you don't have to decide now.

**Is it Walk4Life Mile waymarked ?** – If waymarkers are up enter 'TRUE' – if not enter 'FALSE'. You will be able to change this on the website later.

**Is it flat ?** - If the route is flat (for example along an old railway line, or canal tow path) enter 'TRUE' – if you are not sure, or it isn't enter 'FALSE'.

**Is it uninterrupted ?** – Enter 'TRUE' if the route has no road crossings, gates, stiles or other places where someone would have to stop walking. If you are not sure enter 'FALSE'.

**Have hazards been identified ?** – if they have then enter ‘TRUE’ and add a note to describe any potential hazards in the ‘notes’ column. If there are no hazards then enter ‘TRUE’ but you don’t need to say anything more. Otherwise enter ‘FALSE’

**Is it a WfH route ?** – If the route is used by a Walking for Health group for led walks then enter ‘TRUE’ in the box. This will give the route a WfH logo, and allow people to find out more about the Walking for Health group. If you know when the led walks take place then you can add any details in the “notes” column

**Tags** – these are descriptive words to help people searching for specific routes. You can add as many as you like to describe your route, we have given a few examples. Try to think of words that people may use to find a route of interest to them. They will not show on the website.

**Notes** – The text entered in here will show on the website exactly as you type it. Use this box to describe any potential hazards, or any information you would like people to know. If you are a Walking for Health group you can use this box to tell people where or when you meet, or the name of your group.

**Url** – if you have a website which give more information about the route you can add it here. You can add a small amount of text too, for example “This route is promoted by xxxx – find out more at [www.xxxx.org.uk](http://www.xxxx.org.uk) “

You can add information to routes once they are on the website – including attaching a pdf file if you want to. The most important data we need at this stage is the file name, route name and tags ... the rest can easily be added later.

## Digitising routes

You can also provide routes to use by digitising them and creating .kml files. The best way to do this, if you don’t already have GIS is to use google maps. We have written detailed notes on how to do this which are on our website ([www.walkengland.org.uk](http://www.walkengland.org.uk)). If you want to know more get in touch and we will explain what you need to do.

If you need any advice on how to export to kml, or how to digitise routes contact [abi.mansley@walkengland.org.uk](mailto:abi.mansley@walkengland.org.uk) or call her on 07914 273271.

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