
**GALLOWAY MOUNTAIN RESCUE TEAM
PRESS RELEASE**

WALKERS LOSE THEIR WAY OFF RHINS OF KELLS

Two visiting walkers got lost in wet weather after darkness and poor weather closed in while they were walking the Rhins of Kells on Sunday 30th August 2009. They were found safe and well after a four hour search at 3.30am on Monday 31st August.

Galloway MRT personnel responded to the call just after 11.15pm on Sunday evening, with eight members carrying out a systematic search of forest roads and tracks to the east and west of the Rhins of Kells.

Deputy Team Leader Mike McCann said

“The walkers had contacted the police by mobile phone and said they were lost on a forest road in the Forrest Estate north of Dalry. We initially concentrated our search in this area but expanded the search to include forest areas to the west side of the ridge. In the end, after four hours of searching we found them safe and well on the west side near Garrary. They had become completely disorientated and hadn’t realised they had come off the opposite side of the hill than they had intended. Sadly this is a mistake often made by walkers when darkness or poor visibility settles in.”

The Rhins of Kells is a very popular classic Galloway Hill walk, but the path along the ridge is poorly defined in some areas and easily misjudged when visibility is reduced by darkness or low cloud cover. This incident emphasises the need to carry a map and compass at all times, and of course be skilled in how to use them properly.

Find out about the activities of Galloway MRT; callouts, weather forecasts, walk routes, training and much more, on our website at <http://www.gallowaymrt.org.uk>.

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