

**SDOS Birding Walks Risk Assessment Form:**

Assessor: Tony Benton - with support from Clive Hope : Date of Assessment 6 April 2022

Location: Goring gap and/or Ferring Rife (including sea watch sessions)

Brief Description: The walk at Goring Gap is generally on a good, level, well maintained path or a very quiet side road beside the fields. The walk beside Ferring Rife can be very muddy after rain. If Ferring Rife is included in the walk then there are refreshments and toilets at the Blue Bird cafe (and car parking). In broad terms, this is a very low risk walk. Sea watch sessions are from the beach and a folding chair adds greatly to participants comfort.

Suggested clothing: Warm, waterproof clothing depending on weather conditions; strong footwear or wellington boots. In hot weather, clothing needs to be suitably adjusted - participants are urged to monitor the weather forecast in advance.

<b>Hazard</b>	<b>Who might be harmed</b>	<b>Evaluation of Risk</b>	<b>Risk mitigation measures</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Bad weather	All participants	Low / Medium	Cancel or curtail walk	Monitor weather forecast
Lightning storms	All participants	Low/Medium	Cancel or curtail walk	Monitor weather forecast
Snow and ice	All participants	Low / Medium	Cancel or curtail walk	Monitor weather forecast
Darkness, cloud, fog	All participants	Low	Cancel or curtail walk	Monitor weather forecast - very unlikely to be a problem
Hot weather	All participants	Low/Medium	Participants should wear appropriate clothing and bring a drink	Monitor weather forecast
Uneven walking surfaces, such as shingle beach, and any trip hazards	Less mobile participants	Low / Medium	Less mobile participants might choose to bring a walking stick or walking pole, or avoid the shingle	Any participant with concerns is asked to contact the walk leader in advance - to obtain more detail
Muddy conditions at the Rife, including risk of slipping on mud	All participants	Low	Participants need to wear appropriate footwear, especially for the Rife which can be very muddy.	Monitor weather forecast - and if local intelligence indicates a great deal of mud, this can be flagged to participants in advance

