

SDOS Birding Walks Risk Assessment Form:

Assessor: Tony Benton : Date of Assessment 6/3/2022

Location: **Widewater Lagoon** - shared footpath and car park alongside the lagoon.

Brief Description: The walk usually uses the car park (flat surface) and shared footpath accessed via a slope or stairs. Wheelchair accessible. Toilets on site and seasonal cafe (summer only). Car park is pay and display (probably cash only). Some walks might access a short section of shingle beach (optional).

Suggested clothing: Warm, waterproof clothing depending on weather conditions; strong footwear or wellington boots after rain.

Hazard	Who might be harmed	Evaluation of Risk	Risk mitigation measures	Comments
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	Advise participants - if necessary cancel or curtail walk	Monitor weather forecast
Darkness, cloud, fog	All participants	Low	Cancel or curtail walk	Monitor weather forecast
Hot weather	All participants	Low /medium	Participants to wear suitable clothing and have access to fluids	Monitor weather forecast
Uneven walking surfaces	All participants - but particularly less mobile people	Low	Participants to take care on shingle beach (might choose to use a walking aid)	Participants to be aware and avoid beach if they judge shingle to pose a problem
Cars in car park	All participants	Low	Participants to take care and be aware of slow moving vehicles	Usual awareness of vehicles required from all
Standing water and flooding	All participants	Low	Participants to take care and wear appropriate footwear	Monitor weather forecasting assess on the day
Trip hazards	All participants	Low	Participants to take care	One uneven surface, the beach, to present a (low) hazard

