

## SDOS Birding Walks Risk Assessment Form: Waltham Brooks

Assessor: Roger Smith: Date of Assessment 25 January 2021

Location: Waltham Brooks

Brief Description: A moderate 2 mile walk along damp / wet grassy tracks and a river embankment. Three stiles. Can be a challenging walk in wetter periods of weather when wellingtons advisable.

Suggested clothing: Warm, waterproof outerwear depending on weather conditions and strong outdoor footwear

<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	Cancel or curtail walk	Monitor weather forecast
Snow and ice	All participants	Seasonal Low / Medium	Cancel or curtail walk	Monitor weather forecast
Darkness, cloud, fog	All participants	Low		
Hot Weather	All participants	Low		
Uneven walking surfaces	All participants	Low / Medium	Advise participants	
Muddy conditions	All participants	Low / Medium	Advise participants	
Standing water and flooding	All participants	Variable	Adjust walking route	Cancel if valley flooded
Slippery surfaces	All participants	Low / Medium	Advise participants	
Steep slopes	All participants	Low		Climb up river embankment
Trip hazards	All participants	Low		
Stiles and gates	All participants	Medium	Assist participants	Three high stiles
Barbed wire, electric fences	All participants	N/A		
Obstructive vegetation	All participants	N/A		
Stinging or thorny plants	All participants	N/A		
Falling trees or branches	All participants	N/A		
Biting insects	All participants	Low	Advise participants	Seasonal
Snakes	All participants	Low		
Farm or other animals	All participants	Low	Avoid grazing animals	
Railway crossing	All participants	Low / Medium	Supervise crossing	

Road and farm traffic	All participants	Low / Medium	Warn oncoming traffic and all participants	
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