

SDOS Birding Walks Risk Assessment Form:

Assessor: Jenny Holter Date of Assessment: 1.4.22

Location: Amberley Wildbrooks

Brief Description: Walk along Wey South footpath (flat) across Amberley Brooks RSPB reserve, continue to Greatham Bridge. Cross over the road bridge and enter the Waltham Brooks nature reserve. Follow the (predominantly flat) path around the main part of the reserve - this excludes the railway crossing. See also separate risk assessment for Waltham Brooks reserve. This walk is not wheelchair accessible.

Suggested clothing: As appropriate for weather conditions; strong footwear or wellington boots.

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	Cancel or curtail walk	Monitor weather forecast
Snow and ice	All participants	Low	Cancel or curtail walk	Monitor weather forecast
Darkness, cloud, fog	All participants	Low	Cancel or curtail walk.	
Hot weather	All participants	Low	Participants to wear suitable clothing and bring a drink. Also to use sun tan lotion or sun hat as required	There is little shelter on much of the route.
Uneven walking surfaces	Less mobile participants	Low/medium	Participants may wish to bring a walking pole or stick. Participants will need to exercise care.	Participants will need to make judgements and to take care.
Muddy/boggy conditions	All participants	Low/medium	Suitable footwear is essential. Participants should use boarding provided by the reserve over boggy areas.	Monitor weather forecast and make use of local intelligence
Standing water and flooding	All participants	Low/medium	Keep away from water edges. Children should be supervised by their	There are unfenced drainage ditches on each side of the wide track and

			accompanying adult.	part of the path is near the river. There is a pond on the Waltham reserve.
Slippery surfaces	All participants	Low	Proceed with care and ask for assistance if needed (e.g. a steadying hand)	
Stiles and gates	All participants	Low/medium	Ask for assistance – steadying hand – as required.	There are several stiles and gates on the walk. Ensure any gates are left as found.
Biting insects	All participants	Low	Wear suitable clothing and bring insect repellent if necessary	Participants to judge this in advance.
Snakes	All participants	Low	Suitable footwear mitigates any risk	Snakes not previously encountered on this route.
Farm or other animals	All participants	Low	If farm animals are grazing on the reserve these should be given a wide berth	
Road and farm traffic	All participants	Medium	Take care and walk in single file when crossing Greatham Bridge. Participants should ensure there is a break in traffic before attempting to cross	There is no footpath and the bridge is fairly narrow. However the road is generally quiet.