

SDOS Birding Walks Risk Assessment Form:

Assessor: Tony Benton : Date of Assessment 22 April 2022

Location: Stanmer Park

Brief Description: A walk comprising undulating woodland, park land, a quiet village road, and with an option to walk up to the South Downs Way along a rutted footpath. Walks can vary between 1 - 3 miles. Walks should avoid days when Brighton and Hove Albion are playing at home because of huge traffic congestion and parking controls. Parking needs to be paid for (card only) either near the garden centre or more cheaply at the church car park. There are three cafes and public toilets in Stanmer Village. This walk is low risk - but there are some short/steep slopes and a moderate level of fitness and agility is required, especially within the woodland.

Suggested clothing: Warm, waterproof clothing depending on 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	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 / Medium	Cancel or curtail walk	Monitor weather forecast
Hot weather	All participants	Low / Medium	Participants to wear suitable clothing, bring a drink, and consider the need for sun screen	Monitor weather forecast
Uneven walking surfaces	Less mobile/agile participants	Low	A walking stick or walking pole might help some people - their own judgement is required.	The woodland contains a lot of trip hazards and some steep slopes. This is not a walk with flat surfaces.
Muddy conditions	All participants	Low	Suitable footwear is required	Monitor weather forecast
Standing water and flooding	All participants	Low	We would avoid any flooding that appeared to be a hazard.	Monitor weather forecast

Slippery surfaces	All participants	Low	Suitable footwear and care is required.	Monitor weather forecast
Steep slopes	All participants	Low	The slopes might leave unfit people out of breath, so participants might need to curtail their walk	Anyone with angina or similar should probably talk to the walk leader in advance of the walk.
Trip hazards	All participants	Low	Everyone must take care,	
Stiles and gates	N/A			
Barbed wire, electric fences	N/A			
Obstructive vegetation	N/A			
Stinging or thorny plants	N/A			
Falling trees or branches	All participants	Low	After gales attention might be required to the low risk of falling branches	Recognise that some adjustments could be required after gales - Ash die back area.
Biting insects	N/A			
Snakes	N/A not known on this walk			
Farm or other animals	N/A			
Railway crossing	N/A			
Road and farm traffic	All participants	Low	Usual care and attention required around any vehicles	