

SDOS Birding Walks Risk Assessment Form:

Assessor: Jenny Holter Date of Assessment 14/05/22

Location: Iping Common. There is a public car park at the site.

Brief Description: Approx. 2mile walk around mainly flat, sandy heathland. This is a Sussex Wildlife reserve.

Suggested clothing: Clothing appropriate to weather conditions at the time. Strong footwear is recommended. Open toed footwear is not suitable due to the sandy terrain. Long trousers are recommended to protect from the risk of ticks.

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		Cancel or curtail walk	Monitor weather forecast
Snow and ice	All participants	Low	Cancel or curtail walk	Very unlikely in summer. Monitor weather forecast
Darkness, cloud, fog	All participants	Low/Medium	Cancel or curtail walk.	Monitor weather forecast
Hot weather	All participants	Low	Wear suitable clothing. Including a sun hat. Use sun cream and bring a drink.	This dry, sandy site can become very hot and there is limited shade.
Uneven walking surfaces	All participants	Low/medium	Advise participants to exercise care. Less mobile participants may wish to use a walking stick or pole.	Most of the walk is on flat, even paths. There are some areas where the path becomes uneven and tree roots may occur.
Muddy conditions	All participants	Low	Avoid boggy areas if conditions are wet.	Monitor weather forecast and make use of local information about conditions. Most of the heath is likely to be dry in the summer.
Standing water	All participants	Low	Avoid boggy/wet areas. Keep to the edge of pools.	There are 2 pools on the route.
Steep slopes	All participants	Low	Ask for assistance or pause for a rest if needed.	There is a gentle slope at one point on the route.

Trip hazards	All participants	Low	Advise participants to take care.	Take care of tree roots on the path.
Stiles and gates	Less mobile participants	Low	Participants should ask for assistance with opening/closing gates as required.	There are no stiles. Two gates. These should be left open/closed as found.
Obstructive vegetation and Stinging or thorny plants	All participants	Low/medium	Participants should exercise care and wear suitable footwear and long trousers to protect against scratching and the possibility of ticks.	Gorse or heather may occasionally encroach on the route.
Falling trees or branches	All participants	Low		
Biting insects	All participants	Low/medium	Participants to wear suitable footwear and clothing. Also to consider use of insect repellent.	Seasonal
Farm or other animals	All participants	Low	Avoid any grazing animals.	Unlikely to be encountered
Snakes	All participants	Low	Suitable footwear mitigates any risk.	