

SDOS Birding Walks Risk Assessment Form:

Assessor: Tony Benton : Date of Assessment 19 May 2022 and revised 23 May with assistance from Terry Goble.

Location: Kithurst Hill and surrounding downs, including stretches of the South Downs Way. There is a **Kithurst Hill car park**, accessed by a minor road from the B2139. Heading out of Storrington towards Amberley, there is a left turn, about a mile or so out of Storrington.

Brief Description: Walks from the Kithurst Hill car park are on good tracks, Likely muddy after rain. The route to the meadow popular for butterflies is down-hill, probably a distance of 200 metres from the car park. It is not steep but some people with mobility problems could find themselves challenged.

Suggested clothing: Warm, waterproof clothing depending on weather conditions; strong footwear or wellington boots after rain. Sandals are not recommended. This walk is most likely a spring and early summer outing.

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	Cancel or curtail walk	Monitor weather forecast
Hot weather	All participants	Low/medium	Participants should bring a drink and wear suitable clothing and consider the need for sunscreen	Monitor weather forecast
Uneven walking surfaces	All participants	Low	Suitable walking shoes or boots are recommended	Participants to ensure that suitable footwear is available to them
Muddy conditions	All participants	Low	Walking boots or wellington boots	Monitor weather forecast
Standing water and flooding	All participants	Low	Adjust route	Monitor weather forecast
Slippery surfaces	All participants	Low	Adjust route	One route is downhill but not steep. A walking pole or similar might help some people.
Steep slopes	All participants	Low	participants to judge their own capabilities	

Trip hazards	All participants	Low	participants to judge their own capabilities and 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	N/a			
Biting insects	All participants	Low	If wearing shorts or similar, be aware of very low possibility of ticks	Consult a GP if a tick bite is suspected - consider Lyme's disease.
Snakes	All participants	Low / Medium	There are known to be adders on the downs. Do not attempt to pickup or corner snakes.	Stout shoes or boots will provide some protection from snakes. Snakes must be given room and not harassed in any way.
Farm or other animals	All participants	Low	Although unlikely, any farm animals encountered should be given a wide berth and not cornered	
Cycles (and possibly horses being ridden)	All participants	Low	The South Downs Way is popular with cyclists - take care as their approach might not be heard	It's worth participants recognising that the footpath is a shared space. Don't assume it is a completely benign environment.