

SDOS Birding Walks Risk Assessment Form:

Assessor: Tony Benton, with support from Terry Goble : Date of Assessment 23 May 2022

Location: Anchor Bottom - an area of Down Land. The path to Anchor Bottom can be found at the north end of Dacre Gardens, located beside the A283 between Shoreham and Steyning. There is very limited parking in Dacre Gardens, so best to park in the large lay-by north of Dacre Gardens (about 200 yards north on the left - A283 - heading towards Steyning). The number 2 bus between Shoreham and Steyning also stops close by, ask the driver. As a pedestrian, or when rejoining the A283 from a parking place, be aware that this road is dangerous in terms of speeding vehicles and trucks!

Brief Description: Anchor Bottom ... It is very steep in places and some people with mobility problems could find themselves challenged. Similarly people with cardio or breathing difficulties will probably find the terrain too steep.

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 as 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	A walking pole or similar might help some people.

Steep slopes	All participants	Medium/high	Participants to judge their own capabilities	Very steep in places - the challenge is really about fitness, not steep slopes posing a risk of falls.
Trip hazards	All participants	Low	Participants to judge their own capabilities and take care. The grazed pasture is uneven in places.	
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. A circular or oval shape rash around a tick bite can be an early symptom of Lyme disease in some people.
Snakes	All participants	Low/medium	There are known to be adders on the downs, and they must not be picked up or approached in a way that spooks them	Everyone to respect the need for snakes to be given room. Stout shoes or walking boots or similar should afford protection.
Farm or other animals	All participants	Low/medium	Farm animals encountered should be given a wide berth and not cornered	This is grazing land. Cattle likely.

