

SDOS Birding Walks Risk Assessment Form:

Assessor: Tony Benton : Date of Assessment 25 May 2022.

Location: Beeding Brooks and Bramber Brooks can be walked separately or combined. All of the hazards listed below apply equally to both sites unless otherwise indicated.

Brief Description: Both sites are flat, but the Beeding Brooks route does involve some tricky stiles. Grazing cattle can congregate around gates and block paths.

Suggested clothing: Warm, waterproof clothing depending on weather conditions; strong footwear or wellington boots after rain. It can't be stressed too much just how **muddy and wet** Beeding Brooks can become in winter. Some parts of Bramber Brooks nature reserve can also be very wet in winter, so suitable footwear is essential. Public toilets in Bramber- adjacent to free car park at approximately BN44 3WE.

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/medium	Cancel or curtail walk	Monitor weather forecast
Snow and ice	All participants	Low	Cancel or curtail walk	Unlikely in spring and summer. Always monitor the weather forecast in the winter months.
Darkness, cloud, fog	All participants	Low	Cancel or curtail walk	Monitor weather forecast.
Hot weather	All participants	Low	Participants to wear suitable clothing and bring a drink.	Monitor weather forecast.
Uneven walking surfaces	Might affect less mobile participants	Low	Participants might wish to bring a walking stick or walking pole. Participants need to exercise care.	Participants have to make judgements and take care. Paths are rutted in places.

Muddy conditions	All participants	Low	Participants need suitable footwear and to take care if mud could result in slips and falls.	Monitor weather forecast - likely to be an issue after heavy or prolonged periods of rain, especially in winter.
Standing water and flooding	All participants - Beeding Brooks	Low	Walking boots or wellingtons required in winter.	
Slippery surfaces	N/A			
Steep slopes	N/A			
Trip hazards	N/A			
Stiles and gates	All participants - Beeding Brooks	Low / Medium	Some people might need a steadying hand.	There are up to six stiles. They will present a challenge to people lacking mobility/ agility.
Barbed wire, electric fences	N/A			Should not be encountered - but stick to paths.
Obstructive vegetation	All participants	Low	Stick to paths	
Stinging or thorny plants	All participants	Low	Stick to paths	
Falling trees or branches	N/a			
Biting insects	All participants	Low	Participants vulnerable to biting insects should take their usual precautions in spring and summer. Because of grazing animals, a slight possibility of ticks.	It is probably not wise to go bare legged on this walk in summer- but participants choice. There is some possibility of ticks - any bites resulting in a rash should be referred to a doctor (consider Lyme's disease)
Snakes	All participants	Low	Suitable footwear mitigates any risks. Do not attempt to pick up snakes or approach too closely.	Snakes would be unusual at either sites.

Farm or wild animals	All participants	Low/medium	Any animals must must be given a wide berth, especially if they have young.	
Railway crossing	N/A			
Road and farm traffic	N/A			If participants are walking to either site and are crossing roads, usual 'road sense' required.