

**SDOS Birding Walks Risk Assessment Form:** Cissbury - including Cissbury Ring, Cissbury Gallops and Cissbury Fields (aka Shepherds Mead).

Assessor: Tony Benton - with support from Clive Hope and Sue Miles. : Date of Assessment 3 August 2023

Location: For Cissbury Gallops, meet at car parking area on the left of the road at Nepcote Green, Findon. Map reference TQ127085. Other walks in the area start at different locations - to be advised.

Brief Description: A range of walks in this area encompass downland, some of which can be steep (and slippery or very muddy after rain).

Suggested clothing: Depending on the time of the year, good walking boots or wellingtons are suggested, together with wet weather clothing. Some of the paths close to Cissbury Ring, particularly the Monarchs Way, can be extremely muddy after heavy rain.

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	Low	Participants to judge their own capabilities	Some slopes are steep - if in doubt it's best to speak to the walk leader in advance.

Trip hazards	All participants	Low	Participants to judge their own capabilities and take care	
Stiles and gates	All participants	Low	Participants to judge their own capabilities and take care. Not applicable to Find-on Gallops walk.	Stiles will be encountered on some walks - if in doubt it's best to speak to the walk leader in advance.
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
Snakes	All participants	Low/medium	Possible around Cissbury Fields - stout shoes or walking boots are always a good idea.	
Farm or other animals	All participants	Low	Any farm animals - or conservation grazing animals - should be given a wide berth and not cornered	Be particularly careful around calves.
Cycles (and possibly horses being ridden)	All participants	Low	Some paths/routes are popular with cyclists - take care as their approach might not be heard	Don't assume it is a completely benign environment - and give horse riders plenty of space.