

SDOS Birding Walks Risk Assessment Form:

Assessor: Tony Benton, with support from Bernie Forbes. : Date of Assessment 1 October 2022 Version 2 10 April 2024

Location: Burpham and The Burgh - outskirts of Arundel. Meet at The Triangle, Peppering Lane , Burpham. Map Ref.197/TQ042095

Brief Description: Walks are likely to involve a combination of good tracks and paths that can become extremely muddy and slippery after rain. Most walks are about 4 miles and the gradient is never severe. This is a low risk walk in open countryside with some spectacular views.

One of the walks around water meadows uses a footpath which crosses railway tracks*.

Refreshments available at nearby pub during opening hours. Park with care and consideration and do not leave valuables in the car.

Suggested clothing: Warm, waterproof clothing, depending on weather conditions; strong footwear or wellington boots after rain. The walking routes are often exposed to the elements, meaning that clothing and footwear must be matched to the prevailing weather conditions.

Hazard	Who might be harmed	Evaluation of Risk	Risk mitigation measures	Comments
Railway Crossing*	All participants	Low/Medium	Supervise Crossing	
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	For a spring or summer walk, participants should bring a drink.	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 - and be aware that after rain some paths can be extremely muddy and slippery
Standing water and flooding	All participants	Low	Adjust route	Monitor weather forecast
Slippery surfaces	All participants	Low	Adjust route	

Steep slopes	All participants	Low	Participants to judge their own capabilities	Slopes are a gradual gradients as opposed to 'steep'.
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 - this mostly applies to any walks in spring or summer when clothing might not protect from bites.
Snakes	N/a			
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	Encountered occasionally, so awareness is required, especially as mountain bikes might approach from behind and silently.	
Shooting of game for sport	All participants	Low	Be aware that the route is part of a shooting estate, so follow any instructions from walk leader or estate staff.	