

### SDOS Birding Walks Risk Assessment Form:

Assessor: Tony Benton, with support from Bernie Forbes. : Date of Assessment 6 December 2024 (By TB in person).

Location: **Burpham** (including Burpham water meadows and sewage works area) and **The Burgh** - outskirts of Arundel. Usually meet at The Triangle, Pepering Lane , Burpham. Map Ref.197/TQ042095 - but always check our website for the latest instructions. **Please note this walk includes sections that are a shooting estate.**

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, except when the water meadows are included. This is a low risk walk in open countryside with some spectacular views. 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   |
|-----------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|---|--|
| 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/medium         | 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  |  |

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|---|------------------|--|---|---|
| Steep slopes                              | All participants | Low - but if the walk includes the water meadows then there is likely to be a steep and slippery slope, increasing the risk to medium. | Participants to judge their own capabilities  | Slopes are gradual gradients as opposed to 'steep' - except on the water meadows section which is incorporated into some walks.             |
| Trip hazards                              | All participants | Low  | participants to judge their own capabilities and take care  |   |
| Stiles and gates                          | All participants | Low  | Stiles are not anticipated.   |   |
| 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. |   |

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|----------------------------|------------------|-----|--|--|
| 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. |  |
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