

SDOS Birding Walks Risk Assessment Form:

Assessor: Tony Benton - with grateful input from Bernie Forbes. : Date of Assessment 30 December 2022

Location: Pagham Harbour and Church Norton. Meet at RSPB Visitor Centre, Sidlesham (OS 197/SZ857 966). RSPB members park for free at the RSPB car park - bring RSPB membership card and display on dashboard. Otherwise payment is via an App or a phone call.

Brief Description: This walk is approximately 4.5 miles in length and is out and back from Sidlesham to Church Norton. There are toilets on site at the car park. If the walk is all day then please bring food and drink.

Suggested clothing: Warm, waterproof clothing depending on weather conditions; strong footwear or wellington boots are always recommended for this walk, except after long dry spells. Overall this is a very low risk walk, but the distance might challenge some people.

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 - this is generally a winter walk.
Uneven walking surfaces	All participants	Low	Suitable walking shoes, or wellington boots are recommended. There are some steps to be negotiated when entering the church yard, so extra care is required.	Participants to ensure that suitable footwear is available to them
Muddy conditions	All participants	Low	Walking boots or wellington boots	Monitor weather forecast. Participants to ensure that suitable footwear is available to them
Standing water and flooding	All participants	Low	Adjust route	Monitor weather forecast

Slippery surfaces	All participants	Low	Adjust route	As above, the risk of slipping increases when there is mud.
Steep slopes	All participants	Low	participants to judge their own capabilities	This walk is almost entirely flat, so should not challenge most people.
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. This is generally a winter walk, so insects should not be a problem.	Consult a GP if a tick bite is suspected
Snakes	N/a		Not known on this walk.	
Farm or other animals	All participants	Low	Although unlikely, any farm animals encountered should be given a wide berth and not cornered	