

SDOS Birding Walks Risk Assessment Form:

Assessor: Tony Benton : Date of Assessment 24 March 2024

Location: Brooklands Park & Lake, Lancing BN15 8NN

Brief Description: A very low risk event, suitable for people using a wheel chair. Meet outside the cafe at the northern end of the lake, unless other instructions are issued. Parking is available in a pay and display car park, adjacent to the cafe. Payment is by cash or card. The venue is also good for public transport including the 700 bus service, running between Brighton and Worthing. If SDOS are participating in an event hosted by other organisations, this risk assessment applies (and for that reason is extensive in its scope).

Suggested clothing: Warm, waterproof clothing depending on the weather conditions; strong footwear or wellington boots after rain. Some parts of the park can be very muddy after rain and standing water sometimes accumulates on one of the concrete paths near the lake.

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	Some grass sections can be slippery after rain.
Steep slopes	All participants	Low	Participants to judge their own capabilities	The area around the lake is flat, but other parts of the park have some gentle slopes.
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 in the summer months.	Consult a GP if a tick bite is suspected
Snakes	N/a			

Dogs	All participants	Low	If nervous around dogs then be aware and if necessary, ask for the dog to be put on a lead. This park is popular with dog walkers.	
Cycles	All participants	Low	Cycles are not permitted - but this is sometimes ignored - so vigilance is required.	
Water hazard	All participants - but especially young children	Medium	The lake and feeder stream are a hazard to children who might not recognise the danger of water. Parents are responsible for their children.	There are a number of 'emergency throwing lines' around the lake (in red containers). In case of need these should be deployed.
Tripping on tripods	All participants - but especially young children	Low	This is a very specific hazard, and relates to events where tripods and scopes are being used and shared with the public. People in charge of scopes need to be vigilant.	