

**SDOS Birding Walks Risk Assessment Form:**

Assessor: Tony Benton : Date of Assessment 21 June 2023

Location: Tottington Woods Local Nature Reserve- situated off the A2037, sign posted right next to the village hall if approaching from Shoreham or Upper Beeding.

Brief Description: there is parking for about five cars. The walk around the woods is about one mile. Paths are a mixture of gravel surfaces and mud! The walk is basically flat, but it can be extremely boggy in winter. There are no facilities, but the village of Small Dole has a pub and shop. The main hazards are tree roots and brambles, and potentially dogs that are not under close control.

Suggested clothing: Warm, waterproof clothing depending on weather conditions; strong footwear or wellington boots after rain.

<b>Hazard</b>	<b>Who might be harmed</b>	<b>Evaluation of Risk</b>	<b>Risk mitigation measures</b>	<b>Comments</b>
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 if walking in the spring or summer, although there's plenty of shade.
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 - but medium risk after rain.	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	
Steep slopes	All participants	Low	participants to judge their own capabilities	Generally very flat.
Trip hazards	All participants	Low	participants to judge their own capabilities and take	There are some tree routes to be negotiated.

			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
Snakes	N/a			
Dogs	All participants	Low to medium	This is a popular place with dog walkers, and any out of control dogs could be a hazard.	Participants to be aware that dogs are exercised on the reserve. People need to judge in the usual way how comfortable they are around dogs.