

**SDOS Birding Walks Risk Assessment Form:**

Assessor: Richard Allan / Paul Emmerson : Date of Assessment 11 July 2023

Location: Lancing Ring LNR – Coombes – Steep Down

Brief Description: Walks from the Lancing Ring LNR car park are on good tracks, Likely muddy after rain. The route to Coombes has one downhill narrow section of 100 yds but not particular steep but some people with mobility problems could find themselves challenged.

Suggested clothing: Waterproof clothing depending on weather conditions; strong footwear or wellington boots after rain. Sandals are not recommended. This walk is most likely a late Summer/Autumn outing

<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
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	One section is downhill but not particularly steep. A walking pole or similar might help some people.
Steep slopes	All participants	Low	participants to judge their own capabilities	

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
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	The Downs are popular with cyclists - take care as their approach might not be heard	It's worth participants recognising that footpaths are a shared space. Don't assume it is a completely benign environment