

SDOS Birding Walks Risk Assessment Form:

Assessor: Tony Benton : Date of Assessment 25 November 2023.

Location: Rackham Wood and Parham Park, both accessible from public footpaths. Parking likely to be at Rackham Street, opposite The Old School House: (parking on the east verge where there is plenty of room). Map Ref 197/TQ 051144. Walk into Parham Park and then onto the RSPB Rackham Viewpoint and then viewing the brooks from Rackham Mill.

Brief Description: This outing combines a walk in Parham Park with Rackham - both locations can be **very muddy** after rain. The Parham Park element is relatively flat, but for Rackham expect some inclines and undulating terrain. There are no toilet facilities available, nor refreshments. This walk aims to see woodland species, as well as raptors such as Marsh Harrier, White-tailed Eagle. Greater White-fronted Goose and a range of wildfowl can also be expected in winter.

Suggested clothing: Warm, waterproof clothing depending on weather conditions; **strong footwear or wellington boots** after rain. Sandals and trainers are **not** recommended.

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 - can be very muddy.
Standing water and flooding	All participants	Low	Adjust route	Monitor weather forecast

Slippery surfaces	All participants	Low	Adjust route	A walking pole or similar might help some people.
Steep slopes	All participants	Low	participants to judge their own capabilities	Some parts of the walk involve inclines and slopes, eg up to Rackham View point.
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	Best to keep legs in particular covered.	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	Always be aware of bikes and horses being ridden.	