

SDOS Birding Walks Risk Assessment Form:

Assessor: Tony Benton : Date of Assessment 17 December 2023

Location: Chidham Peninsula and walk to Cobnor Point

Brief Description: This is a **low risk** walk overall, but the section to the bird hide is definitely **slippery** on shingle and mud. The walk starts from the car park in Chidham Lane and is approximately four miles in length, although a bird hide provides a convenient place to rest and shorten the walk. It's an out and back walk and is flat, but also exposed to the elements and in winter could be cold from wind chill. There are **no toilet facilities** on this walk. A very good tarred path forms part of this walk and is suitable for wheelchairs, but access would have to be negotiated with the Activity Centre and can't be assumed (ph 01243 573375 and www.cye.org.uk).

Suggested clothing: As this is generally a winter walk, warm, waterproof clothing is essential; wellington boots after rain, and as a minimum good walking boots. Definitely avoid trainers after rain.

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 - exposed location	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 Only a hazard if the walk is in spring or summer.	Participants should bring a drink and wear suitable clothing and consider the need for sunscreen	Monitor weather forecast - almost certainly this is in fact a winter walk
Uneven walking surfaces	All participants	Low -but there are some uneven surfaces, especially when walking to the bird hide	Suitable wellington boots or boots are recommended	Participants to ensure that suitable footwear is available to them
Muddy conditions	All participants	Low	Wellington boots are best	Monitor weather forecast
Standing water and flooding	All participants	Low	Adjust route	Monitor weather forecast
Slippery surfaces	All participants	Low/ Medium	The section to the bird hide is definitely slippery on shingle and mud.	A walking pole or similar might help some people. The section to the bird hide

				is slippery.
Steep slopes	N/A	N/A		
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	N/A	Low		Very unlikely in winter
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)	N/A	N/A		