

SDOS Birding Walks Risk Assessment Form:

Assessor: Tony Benton - with grateful support from Bernie Forbes. : Date of Assessment 7 January 2024

Location: **Pagham Harbour – North Wall**

Please note - **Parking at the North Wall, Church Lane is not easy**, people need to do a U-turn at the end of the lane and only parking on the north side. Park with care, following any instructions from the walk leader.

Brief Description: The walk is along flat footpaths, that can become very muddy and slippery after rain. Mud and slippery surfaces are the main hazard associated with this walk, together with exposure to the weather. Great views over the harbour, but it can be very cold.

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 - this walk is usually in the winter.
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 - wellington boots highly recommended after prolonged rain.	Monitor weather forecast
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	N/A - mostly flat	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 - although this walk is generally a winter walk.
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	Low		
Parking	All participants	Low	Follow instructions via user group announcements and from leader on the day.	A narrow lane, so take care around your vehicle.

Suggested clothing: Warm, waterproof clothing, depending on weather conditions; strong footwear or wellington boots after rain. After prolonged rain, when the ground is saturated, wellingtons are highly recommended.