

SDOS Birding Walks Risk Assessment Form:

Assessor: Jenny Holter Date of Assessment 08/04/24

Location: Heyshott and Ambersham Common

Brief Description: Short walk across mainly flat, sandy heathland. There is a public car park adjacent to Heyshott Common.

Suggested clothing: Warm Clothing appropriate for evening conditions. Sturdy footwear is recommended and long trousers are recommended to protect from the risk of ticks and biting insects.

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		Cancel or curtail walk	Monitor weather forecast
Snow and ice	All participants	Low	Cancel or curtail walk	Very unlikely in summer. Monitor weather forecast
Darkness, cloud, fog	All participants	Low	Cancel or curtail walk. Participants may wish to carry a torch as the walk may finish after dusk.	Monitor weather forecast
Hot weather	All participants	Low	Wear suitable clothing. Including a sun hat. Use sun cream and bring a drink.	Unlikely to be a problem as this is an evening event.
Uneven walking surfaces	All participants	Low/	Advise participants to exercise care. Less mobile participants may wish to use a walking stick or pole.	Most of the walk is on flat, even paths. There is a short slope up to Ambersham Common.
Muddy conditions	All participants	Low	Avoid boggy areas if conditions are wet.	Monitor weather forecast and make use of local information about conditions. Most of the heath is likely to be dry in the summer.

Road crossing	All participants	Medium	There is a road crossing from one part of the heath to the other. Participants should take care and look and listen for traffic	Participants are expected to take care when crossing the road.
Steep slopes	All participants	Low	Ask for assistance or pause for a rest if needed.	The regular route is generally flat, but a slope may be encountered if the route is varied to locate the target birds species.
Trip hazards	All participants	Low	Advise participants to take care.	
Stiles and gates	Less mobile participants	Low	Participants should ask for assistance with opening/closing gates as required.	There are no stiles or gates.
Obstructive vegetation and Stinging or thorny plants	All participants	Low/medium	Participants should exercise care and wear suitable footwear and long trousers to protect against scratching, biting insects and the possibility of ticks.	Gorse or heather may occasionally encroach on the route.
Falling trees or branches	All participants	Low		
Biting insects	All participants	Low/medium	Participants to wear suitable footwear and clothing. Also to consider use of insect repellent.	Seasonal, but likely to be active on summer evening walks.
Farm or other animals	All participants	Low	Avoid any grazing animals. And give them a wide berth.	
Snakes	All participants	Low	Suitable footwear mitigates any risk.	