

## SDOS Birding Walks Risk Assessment Form:

**Assessor:** Tony Benton with input from Terry Goble      Date of Assessment 18/6/2024

### Mill Hill nature reserve - Shoreham by Sea

Meet in the car park on Mill Hill. You drive up Mill Hill and cross the A27. You then cross a cattle grid and the car park is about 400 - 500 yards up the hill on the left. Width and height restriction barriers, so unsuitable for camper vans.

**Walk:** The walk involves negotiating a fairly steep sided valley. Good strong boots and walking poles if required. This walk is challenging for people with knee, hip, or balance problems.

**Clothing:** Participants to check the weather forecast and to dress for the prevailing conditions. The site is open and lacking much shade.

**Facilities:** A reasonably spacious car park, unpaved. **There are no toilet facilities at this location.**

**Reptiles:** Adders are present. They normally disappear before we can approach. However on cooler days they may be sluggish and should be treated with caution. A project studying the adders is being carried out at this site and corrugated 'refuges' are in place. These must not be touched.

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	Low/medium	Cancel or curtail walk	Monitor weather forecast
Snow and ice	All participants	Low	Cancel or curtail walk	Unlikely in spring and summer when walks are planned.
Darkness, cloud, fog	All participants	Low	Cancel or curtail walk	Monitor weather forecast

Hot weather	All participants	Low	Participants to wear suitable clothing and bring a drink.	Monitor weather forecast
Uneven walking surfaces	Might affect less mobile participants	Low/medium	Participants might wish to bring a walking stick or walking pole. Participants need to exercise care.	Participants have to make judgements and take care - this walk involves some steep inclines.
Muddy conditions	All participants	Low	Participants need suitable footwear and to take care if muddy - could result in slips and falls.	Monitor weather forecast - only an issue after heavy or prolonged periods of rain
Standing water and flooding	N/A			
Slippery surfaces	N/A			
Steep slopes	All participants	Low/medium	Walking pole or similar and good walking boots recommended	The risk of falling is low, but knees and hips might be stressed.
Trip hazards	N/A			
Stiles and gates	N/A			
Barbed wire, electric fences	N/A			Should not be encountered - but stick to paths.
Obstructive vegetation	All participants	Low	Stick to paths	
Stinging or thorny plants	All participants	Low/medium	Stick to paths	
Falling trees or branches	N/a			

Biting insects	All participants	Low	Participants vulnerable to biting insects should take their usual precautions. Because of grazing animals, a slight possibility of ticks.	It is probably not wise to go bare legged on this walk- but participants choice.
Snakes	All participants	Medium	Suitable footwear mitigates any risks.	Adders are present and should not be interfered with. Follow the directions of the very experienced walk leader.
Farm or wild animals	All participants	Low/medium	Any animals must must be given a wide berth, especially if they have young.	It would be unusual to encounter farm animals, unless progressing to Eringham farm.
Railway crossing	N/A			
Dogs off leads	All participants	Low	If nervous around dogs off the lead, stand still, avoid eye contact, and follow instructions of the leader.	

