

## SDOS Birding Walks Risk Assessment Form: Sherwood Rough

**Assessors:** Tony Benton, Paul Emerson.

**Date of Assessment:** February 2024 and updated by TB 13 October 2024.

**Location:** Sherwood Rough - please note also sometimes referred to as Fairmile Bottom and Rewell Wood because they are all adjacent to each other.

**Brief Description:** The first part of the walk includes one very steep incline, although the walk leader will try to use a route that cuts across the contour of the slope and this should make the ascent easier. The focus includes looking for Hawfinches in an area called Sherwood Rough. A walking pole is likely to help people with knee issues.

**Parking:** parking is in the lay-by on the A29, about a mile and a half south of the Whiteways roundabout. It is very long and there is parking for more than a dozen cars. Look out for the white food van at the end of the lay-by. The W3W is: [///blinks.simply.nosedive](https://blinks.simply.nosedive) Note: be aware that there is another shorter lay-by about half a mile before, with no food van. **The announcement for this walk, via the user group, will always confirm the parking/meeting place.**

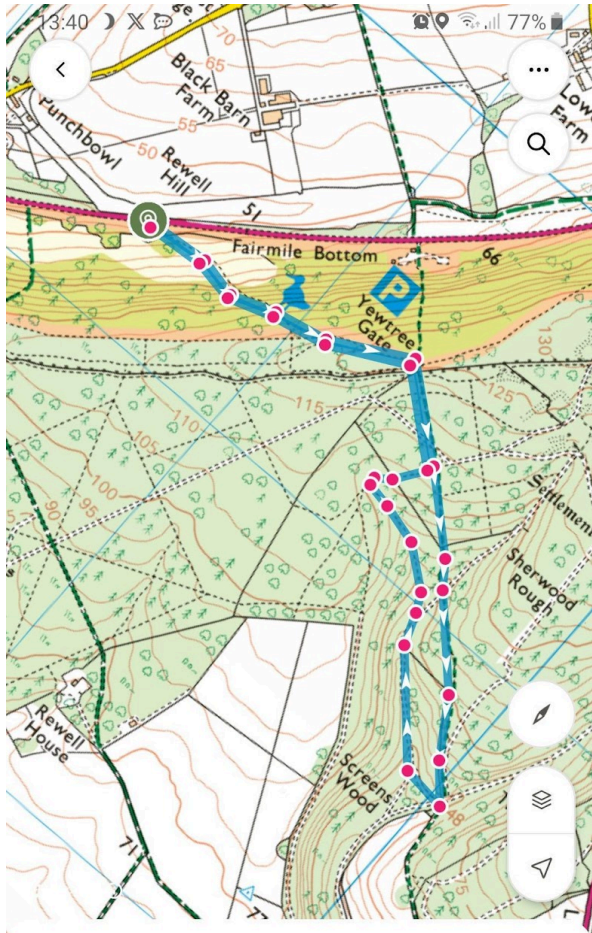
**Clothing:** warm, waterproof clothing, no trainers, and walking boots or wellington boots required.


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
Chill factor	All participants	Low	Wear suitable warm clothing	Participants should make judgements based on the weather forecast.
Uneven walking surfaces	All participants	Low	Suitable walking shoes or boots are recommended, especially wellington boots after prolonged rain.	Participants to ensure that suitable footwear is available to them

Muddy conditions	All participants	Low	Walking boots or better still wellington boots	Monitor weather forecast
Standing water and flooding	All participants	Low	Adjust route	Monitor weather forecast
Slippery surfaces	All participants	Low	Adjust route - making decisions about conditions on the ground.	The walk involves a very steep up and downhill section and could be slippery. A walking pole is likely to be very helpful.
Steep slopes	All participants	Low/medium  Medium risk for people with knee or ankle issues in particular.	Participants to judge their own capabilities	One very steep slope, as reiterated elsewhere in this assessment. Every effort will be made to cut across the contours.
Trip hazards	All participants	Low	participants to judge their own capabilities and take care	Care to be taken if tree roots cross the path in woodland.
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	Not likley to be a hazard in the winter months.	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	
Walk leaders are not provided with First Aid kits, nor are they expected to be First Aid trained.	All participants to note.			

Map of indicative route below:



 Distance 2.4 mi   Time 01:03   Elevation ↗ 520 ft ↘ 518 ft

Undo



Save

