

SDOS Birding Walks Risk Assessment Form:

Assessor: Tony Benton **Date of Assessment:** finalised 8 December 2024, with support from Paul Emerson

Location: Sherwood Rough (sometimes referred to as Fairmile Bottom).

Parking: Parking is in the middle of a very long lay-by on the A29, about a mile and a half south of Whiteways roundabout. Lay-by has room for easily a dozen trucks. Beware two smaller parking areas on the A29 just before it. What3Words is [///limiting.steers.voltages](#)

Brief Description: The first part of the walk includes one **moderately steep incline** up to the top of the escarpment. However the walk leader will use a less direct uphill path than the main one shown on OS maps, and this alternative path cuts across the contour of the slope and makes the ascent easier.

The focus includes looking for Hawfinches in an area called Sherwood Rough, although the birds can be fickle and are not guaranteed. A walking pole is likely to help people with knee issues.

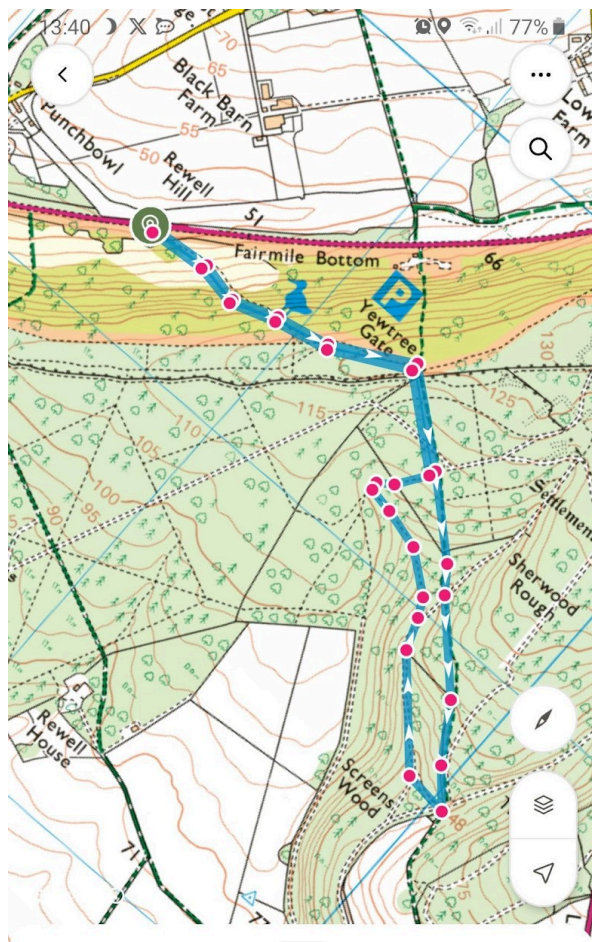
Suggested clothing: Warm, waterproof clothing depending on weather conditions; strong footwear or wellington boots after rain. (In summer, sun hat and appropriate clothing for sunny/hot weather, although this is likely to be a winter walk).

Fluids: Please bring sufficient fluids appropriate to the weather conditions.

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. Care with tripods.	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-most likely to be a winter walk.

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	Monitor weather forecast
Standing water and flooding	All participants	Low	Adjust route. In extreme conditions cancel the walk.	Monitor weather forecast
Slippery surfaces	All participants	Low	Adjust route	One route is uphill/downhill. A walking pole or similar might help some people.
Steep slopes	All participants	Low	Participants to judge their own capabilities	A walking pole or similar might help some people.
Trip hazards	All participants	Low	Participants to judge their own capabilities and take care	If trip hazards are known in advance, share knowledge with all participants.
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		If high winds are forecast and there is a risk of falling branches, consider cancelling the walk.	

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. Remember Lyme disease is not to be taken lightly.
Snakes	N/a			If snakes are encountered, leave well alone.
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)	All participants	Low	Always be aware that cyclists and horse riders don't always stick to Bridleways.	
Cars or other vehicles - including farm vehicles.	N/A			
Walk leaders are not provided with First Aid kits, nor are they expected to be First Aid trained.	All participants must take this into account and must also bring with them any medication that might be required.			



 Distance 2.4 mi Time 01:03 Elevation 7520 ft 518 ft

Undo



Save



