



SOS Birding Walks Risk Assessment Form:

Assessor: Jonathan Cook/ Norma Park

Date of Assessment May 25, 2024

Location: **Amberley Wildbrooks/Greatham with an option to drive to the Rackam viewpoint afterwards**

Brief Description: This walk will be on rough ground so a stick may be useful and there are three stiles to cross. A walk to the viewpoint overlooking the pond We can also search further habitat along the river. It is a circular walk of two to three miles. Bring a picnic if you want to stay for the afternoon when we can do Rackham watchpoint.

There are no public toilets on these routes.

Suggested clothing: In most seasons, warm, waterproof clothing depending on weather conditions; strong footwear. In summer periods ensuring protection against sun, with sun hat, appropriate sunblock and carrying sufficient fluids.

Hazard	Who might be harmed	Evaluation of Risk (Low/Medium/High)	Risk mitigation measures	Comments
Dynamic risk assessment	All	Varies	Circumstances may change from expectations during the walk, eg the weather, livestock being in an unexpected place, an accident involving a participant.	The group leader will make considered pragmatic alterations to plans depending on the circumstance.
Losing participants	All, particularly the those who walk at different paces, wander off route, linger longer and those who need to leave early	Low	Head count in and out. Leader walks at the pace of the slowest and appoints a 'fit' back marker.	Brief the group at the start to keep together
Bad weather	All	Varies	Look at weather forecast Ensure all are appropriately clothed. If extreme cancel the event	Ensure participants understand terrain and conditions to be encountered.
Lightning storms	All	High	Look at weather forecast Cancel the event. Care with tripods.	
Snow and ice	All	Varies	Look at weather forecast. Probably cancel the event unless a light dusting and ice does not make it too slippery	Ensure participants understand terrain and conditions to be encountered.
Darkness, cloud and fog	All	Varies	Keep the group close together, torches in the case of darkness and making people more aware of trip hazards.	Ensure participants understand terrain and conditions to be encountered.
Hot weather	All	High	Look at weather forecast. If extreme heat, cancel the event. If normal summer heat, ensure the right clothing (hat, body	Leader takes additional water in case required by others.

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			covered), sufficient liquids and sun screen.	
Contact with biological agents	All	Medium	People advised not to handle plants/animals and to wash hands before eating, drinking or smoking if any contact is made. Where appropriate, participants are briefed on ticks and Lyme disease (risks, precautions and symptoms) before the walk	Participants warned of possible presence of these before start walk and along walk.
Uneven walking surfaces	All	medium	Announce at start, walk at a pace where people can negotiate, warn if there's particular locations	Ensure participants understand terrain and conditions to be encountered.
Muddy conditions	All	medium	Help people through particularly muddy areas and ensure appropriate footwear.	Ensure participants understand terrain and conditions to be encountered.
Standing water/flooding	All	varies	Look at weather forecast. If extreme flooding cancel walk	Ensure participants understand terrain and conditions to be encountered.
Slippery surfaces	All	medium	Help people through particularly muddy areas and ensure appropriate footwear.	Ensure participants understand terrain and conditions to be encountered.
Trip hazards	All	medium	Announce at start, walk at a pace where people can negotiate, warn if there's particular locations	Ensure participants understand terrain and conditions to be encountered.
Stiles/gates	Less agile	medium	Help participants over or through these, especially in slippery/muddy conditions.	There are three stiles along the anticipated walk..
Barbed wire/fences	All	low	Care should be taken	Ensure participants understand terrain and conditions to be encountered.
Obstructive vegetation	All	medium	Care in overgrown areas	This can become an issue, particularly in the late spring and summer months with abundant growth. Ensure participants are briefed.
Stinging/thorny plants	All	medium	Care in overgrown areas	This can become an issue, particularly in the late spring and summer months with

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				abundant growth. Ensure participants are briefed.
Falling trees/branches	All	Low	Look at weather forecast	Cancel the walk if very windy conditions are forecast.
Biting insects	All	Varies	Warn participants of this and if anyone needs to carry an EpiPen, they have it with them.	
Snakes	All	Unknown	Take care, particularly on warm, sunny days. It is unknown whether adders will be encountered, but they are present in the Arun valley.	If bitten, keep the victim calm as possible and not to move around.
Farm and other animals	All	Medium	Give a wide berth to livestock. Do not run away. Walk calmly!	There are parts of this walk which may become blocked by grazing livestock. It may not be possible to continue on the walk without walking calmly through them. Participants will be made aware of this prior to the start of the walk.
Cycles and horses	All	Low	Part of the routes around the site are used by cyclists and equestrians. Be aware.	Blindly Stepping back when focused through optics, can have unfortunate consequences,
Cars and other vehicles	All	Low	Single file walking, Walk on pavement if there, the right hand side of road if sensible unless the other side is better due to a bend for driver's awareness.	Take care in the car park and any roads on the walking route
Desk assessment of mobile phone coverage in the walk's area https://www.signalchecker.co.uk/			Leader takes a fully charges mobile phone.	All major phone networks have good outdoor coverage in the Amberley area for voice and 4G connectivity.
If a serious accident occurs during the event.	All	Low	SOS walking groups are not required to have trained first aiders present and advice is to contact the emergency services immediately.	in the event of a serious incident, even if there happens to be a member present who has attended a first aid course.
First Aid kit	All	Low	SOS walk leaders are required to carry a basic small first aid kit, which SOS will supply. This does not imply that the	Please note that the contents of these kits will become expiry dated and SOS will replace

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			leader has qualifications to use its content, but will act in a common sense way should a situation arise.	these when required. A central register of who was sent these kits will be maintained for ongoing replacement.

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