



## SOS Birding Walks Risk Assessment Form:

Assessor: Gary Trew/Jonathan Cook

Date of Assessment 24/3/24

Location: RSPB Pulborough Brooks nature reserve.

Brief Description: Good walking paths and probably two miles distance. Suggested clothing: Warm, waterproof clothing depending on weather conditions; strong footwear. The site has a full visitor centre with toilets and refreshment facilities open 10:00hrs to 16:00hrs. Please note at the time of writing this document (March 2024), the composting toilet on the nature trail circuit is not open.

Hazard	Who might be harmed	Evaluation of Risk	Risk mitigation measures	Comments
Bad weather	All participants	Low/Medium	Cancel/curtail walk	Monitor weather forecast
Lightning storms	All participants	Medium	Cancel/curtail walk	Monitor weather forecast
Snow and ice	All participants	Low/Medium	Cancel/curtail walk	Monitor weather forecast
Darkness, cloud and fog	All participants	Medium	Cancel/curtail walk, carry a torch if nighttime walk	Monitor weather forecast
Hot weather	All participants	Low	Participants should bring a drink and wear suitable clothing (inc sun hat) and consider need for sun screen.	Monitor weather forecast
Uneven walking surfaces	All participants	Low/Medium	Suitable walking shoes or boots are recommended	Participants to ensure that suitable footwear is available to them. A walking stick or pole might help some participants
Muddy conditions	All participants	Low	Walking/Welly boots	Monitor weather forecast
Standing water/flooding	All participants	Low	Adjust route	Monitor weather forecast
Slippery surfaces	All participants	Low	Adjust route	A walking stick or pole might help some participants
Trip hazards	All participants	Low	Participants to judge their own capabilities and to take care	Tracks are generally in good order but there may be an occasional small trip

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				hazard. If the walk ventures onto the heathland part of the reserve, the paths are less 'finished' and require greater care.
Stiles/gates	Some gates are 'stiff'.	Low		
Barbed wire/fences	Not applicable			
Obstructive vegetation	Not applicable			
Stinging/thorny plants	All participants	Low	Take care on the edge of paths	
Falling trees/branches	As with any woodland, including the car park, there is some small risk, particularly in windy conditions.	Low		Monitor weather forecast
Biting insects	All participants	Low	If wearing shorts be mindful of ticks	Consult a GP if a tick bite is suspected
Snakes	Adders are a feature of this site.	Low		
Farm and other animals	All participants	Low	The route should be fenced away from any conservation grazing areas.	
Cycles and horses	All participants	Low	Care should be taken in the car park area near the visitor centre. A bridal path crosses the heathland, cycles and horses could be encountered.	
Cars and other vehicles	All participants	Low	Care should be taken in the car park area near the visitor centre	
Mobile phone coverage (all leaders should have a charged mobile phone in			Desk assessment of mobile phone coverage in the walk's area <a href="https://www.signalchecker.co.uk/">https://www.signalchecker.co.uk/</a>	The telephone number of the Visitor Centre is 01798 875851 should

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the event of the need to contact emergency services, coverage).			Good coverage of all main networks. Note - 112/999 uses any available network.	they need to be contacted.

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