



SOS Birding Walks Risk Assessment Form:

Assessor: Jack Curry

Date of Assessment: April 28, 2025

Location: Seaford

Group Leader: Simon Linington

Brief Description: Half day. Meet at 7:00 am on the beach, just to the right of the Splash Point groyne (as seen from the bathing huts). GR: 198/TV488982, what3words: ///spout.shunning.widgets. A telescope and deck chair would be useful.

Suggested Clothing: Warm, waterproof clothing, depending on weather conditions; good footwear. In the summer, sun hat, sunscreen, and appropriate clothing for sunny weather. Please bring sufficient fluids appropriate to the weather conditions.

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, e.g. changing weather conditions, or an accident involving a participant.	Group leader will make considered, pragmatic alterations to plans based on the circumstances.
Losing participants	All, particularly those who walk at different paces, wander off route, linger longer, and those who need to leave early.	Low	Head count participants 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 participants are appropriately clothed. Cancel the walk if extreme weather conditions are forecast.	Ensure participants understand the terrain and conditions to be encountered.
Lightning storms	All	High	Look at weather forecast. Cancel the walk.	Take extra care with tripods.
Snow and ice	All	Varies	Look at weather forecast. Likely cancel the walk, unless a light	Ensure participants understand the terrain and conditions to be encountered.

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			dusting and the ice does not make conditions too slippery.	
Darkness, clouds, and fog	All	Varies	Look at weather forecast. Keep the group close together, use torches in case of darkness, and make participants more aware of trip hazards.	Ensure participants understand the terrain and conditions to be encountered.
Hot weather	All	High	Look at weather forecast. Cancel the walk if extreme heat conditions are forecast. If normal summer heat, ensure the right clothing (hat, body covered), sufficient liquids, and sunscreen.	Group leader to take additional water in case required by others.
Contact with biological agents	All	Medium	Participants advised not to handle plants/animals and to wash their 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 the possible presence of these before the start of the walk and during the walk.
Uneven walking surfaces	All	Medium	Announce at the start, walk at a pace where participants can safely negotiate the terrain, and warn about specific locations that may require extra caution. Ensure all wearing appropriate footwear.	Ensure participants understand the terrain and conditions to be encountered. Note that there will be walking on shingle during this event.
Trip hazards	All	Medium	Announce at the start, walk at a pace where participants can safely negotiate the hazard(s), and warn about specific locations that may	Ensure participants understand the terrain and conditions to be encountered.

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			require extra caution. Ensure all wearing appropriate footwear.	
Slippery surfaces	All	Medium	Help participants over particularly slippery surfaces and ensure all wearing appropriate footwear.	Ensure participants understand the terrain and conditions to be encountered.
Standing water/flooding	All	Varies	Look at weather forecast. Ensure all are appropriately clothed. Cancel the walk if extreme flooding forecast.	Ensure participants understand the terrain and conditions to be encountered.
Stinging/thorny plants	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.
Biting insects	All	Varies	Warn participants of this and advise on insect repellent. Ensure that anyone who needs to carry an EpiPen has one with them.	
Cycles and horses	All	Low	Be aware that some paths may be shared with cyclists and/or equestrians.	Stay alert, especially when using binoculars or telescopes. Avoid stepping back without checking behind you.
Cars and other vehicles	All	Low	Walk in single file on roads; walk on pavements where available. If no pavement, walk on the right-hand side of the road, unless visibility or road layout makes the left-hand side safer.	Take extra care in car parks and on any roads along the walking route.
Stiles/gates	Not applicable	Not applicable		
Barbed wire/fences	Not applicable	Not applicable		

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Muddy conditions	Not applicable	Not applicable		
Obstructive vegetation	Not applicable	Not applicable		
Falling trees/branches	Not applicable	Not applicable		
Snakes	Not applicable	Not applicable		
Farm and other animals	Not applicable	Not applicable		
Desk assessment of the mobile phone coverage in the walk's area www.signalchecker.co.uk/			Group leader to carry a fully charged mobile phone.	All major networks have good coverage in the Seaford area for both voice and 4G connectivity.
First aid kits	All	Low	SOS walk leaders are required to carry a small basic first aid kit, which will be provided by SOS. This does not mean that the leader has formal qualifications to use the contents, but they will act with common sense if a situation arises.	Please note that the contents of these first aid kits will expire, and SOS will replace these kits when required. A central register of recipients will be maintained for their ongoing replacement.
If a serious accident occurs during the walk.	All	Low	SOS walking groups are not required to have trained first aiders present. In the event of a serious accident, it is advised to contact the emergency services immediately.	In the event of a serious accident, it is advised to contact the emergency services immediately, even if there is someone present who has completed a first aid course.