



SOS Birding Walks Risk Assessment Form:

Assessor: Alan Swetman and Jonathan Cook

Date of Assessment 24.02.24

Location: Steyning Downland

Brief Description: Steyning, West Sussex. Meet at 09.00 hrs by the main bus stop, half way up the High Street (What3Words ///country.unwell.flexibly), opposite the clock tower. There are two well signed car parks which can be used (with toilets). The walk does have one uphill and a corresponding downhill, but relatively short and at an easy pace, and the grid ref for the start of the walk is TQ172115/What3Words///verges.rush.firebird. This is a three hour walk and suggests a 20 minute coffee break around half way. (Bring your own drink) Spring bird arrivals especially Nightingales will be looked for. Good underfoot, either on made up paths or grass, which might be slippery after rain. Leader Alan Swetman (07472 139927) Fluids: Please bring sufficient fluids appropriate to the weather conditions.

Hazard	Who might be harmed	Evaluation of Risk (Low/Medium/High)	Risk mitigation measures	Comments
Bad weather	All	Unknown	Check forecast before walk	
Lightning storms	All	Unknown	Check forecast before walk	
Snow and ice	All	Unknown	Check forecast before walk	
Darkness, cloud and fog	All	Unknown	Check forecast before walk	
Hot weather	All	Low	Leader awareness	
Uneven walking surfaces	Less mobile participants	Low	Leader awareness	
Muddy conditions	All	Low	Leader awareness	
Standing water/flooding	All	Low	Leader awareness	
Slippery surfaces	Less mobile participants	Low	Leader awareness	Chalkland paths can be slippery after rain
Trip hazards	Less mobile participants	Low	Leader awareness	Chalkland paths can be uneven
Stiles/gates	Less mobile participants	Zero		
Barbed wire/fences	Less mobile participants	Low	Leader awareness	
Obstructive vegetation	All	Zero		
Stinging/thorny plants	All	Zero		
Falling trees/branches	All	Zero		
Biting insects	All	Low	Leader awareness	

Hazard	Who might be harmed	Evaluation of Risk (Low/Medium/High)	Risk mitigation measures	Comments
Snakes	All	low		Uncertain as to whether there are adders in the area, they are in many parts of the Downs
Farm and other animals	All	Low	Leader awareness	Care to be taken with other path users
Cycles and horses	All	Low		Care to be taken with other path users
Cars and other vehicles	All	Low	Leader awareness	Care to be along Mouse Lane
Desk assessment of mobile phone coverage in the walk's area https://www.signalchecker.co.uk/	All	Low	Leader carries a charged mobile phone or ensures that a participant is carrying a charged one	Steyning has good outdoor signal for voice calls of all major telephony providers.
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 kits	All	Low	SOS walk leaders carry a basic small first aid kit, which SOS will supply. This does not imply that the leader has qualifications to use this content, but will act in a common sense way should a situation arise.	Please note that the contents of these kits will become expiry dated and SOS will replace these when required. A central register of who was sent these kits will be maintained for ongoing replacement.

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