

SDOS Birding Walks Risk Assessment Form:

Assessor: Tony Benton : Date of Assessment 18/6/2024

Location: Knepp estate (rewilding project) - this assessment suitable for all routes within the North and South blocks of the estate.

Brief Description: Park at Knepp 'Wilding Kitchen and Shop' Car Park, Worthing Road, Dial Post, RH13 8NQ. What3Words ///REMAINS.ICEBERGS.RACE

The routes are on a mixture of footpaths, some concrete tracks and minor public roads. All routes are level/flat but are generally not suitable for wheelchairs. The distances can be between 1km - 10km. Be aware, it can be VERY muddy after rain. Please be aware that grazing cattle and pigs are likely to be encountered on most routes.

Suggested clothing: Warm, waterproof clothing depending on weather conditions; strong footwear or wellington boots after rain. Th only toilets are associated with the cafe.

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	Monitor weather forecast
Snow and ice	All participants	Low	Cancel or curtail walk	Unlikely in spring and summer when Stork or butterfly focused walks are planned - but always monitor the weather forecast
Darkness, cloud, fog	All participants	Low	Cancel or curtail walk	Monitor weather forecast
Hot weather	All participants	Low	Participants to wear suitable clothing and bring a drink.	Monitor weather forecast
Uneven walking surfaces	Might affect less mobile participants	Low	Participants might wish to bring a walking stick or walking pole. Participants need to exercise care.	Participants have to make judgements and take care

Muddy conditions	All participants	Low	Participants need suitable footwear and to take care if mud could result in slips and falls.	Monitor weather forecast - generally an issue after heavy or prolonged periods of rain
Standing water and flooding	N/A			
Slippery surfaces	N/A			
Steep slopes	N/A			
Trip hazards	N/A			
Stiles and gates	All participants	Low	There is a possibility of a few styles, depending on the route.	
Barbed wire, electric fences	N/A			Should not be encountered - but stick to paths.
Obstructive vegetation	All participants	Low	Stick to paths	
Stinging or thorny plants	All participants	Low	Stick to paths	
Falling trees or branches	N/a			
Biting insects	All participants	Low	Participants vulnerable to biting insects should take their usual precautions. Because of grazing animals, a slight possibility of ticks.	It is probably not wise to go bare legged on this walk- but participants choice.
Snakes	All participants	Low	Suitable footwear mitigates any risks.	This is, in parts, a very wild area and participants must stick to the footpaths.

Farm or wild animals	All participants	Low/medium	Any animals must must be given a wide berth, especially if they have young.	Tamworth pigs, long horned cattle, exmoor ponies are all present. There are wild deer and great care must be taken in the rutting season. Do not approach wild animals.
Railway crossing	N/A			
Road and farm traffic	All participants	Low / Medium	Some routes involve short road sections, so participants must take care. Walk single file, and towards oncoming traffic.	Participants are expected to exercise care and attention on narrow public lanes. Cycles approaching from behind also need to be factored in.
If off paths - on guided walks with Knepp staff, - extra care with uneven ground and trip hazards.	All participants	Low	Good footwear and ability to walk up to two miles - participants to judge their ability and follow instructions from Knepp staff or their volunteer leaders.	

