

## SDOS Birding Walks Risk Assessment Form:

**Assessor:** Tony Benton with input from Terry Goble      Date of Assessment 18/6/2024

**Location:** Castle Hill Nature Reserve - (East Brighton)

Meet in the car park at the top of Falmer Road (near the junction with The Drove). If approaching from A27/ Falmer, the car park is on the left, just before Bexhill Road (B2123)

**Walk:** The walk to the site is along a good path, but is uneven in parts. At the site we will be negotiating fairly steep sided valleys. Good strong boots and walking poles if required.

**Clothing:** Participants to check the weather forecast and to dress for the prevailing conditions. The site is open and lacking much shade.

**Facilities:** A reasonably spacious car park, unpaved. You will need to bring lunch and a drink as there are no amenities or facilities in this location.

**Reptiles:** Adders are present. They normally disappear before we can approach. However on cooler days they may be sluggish and should be treated with caution.

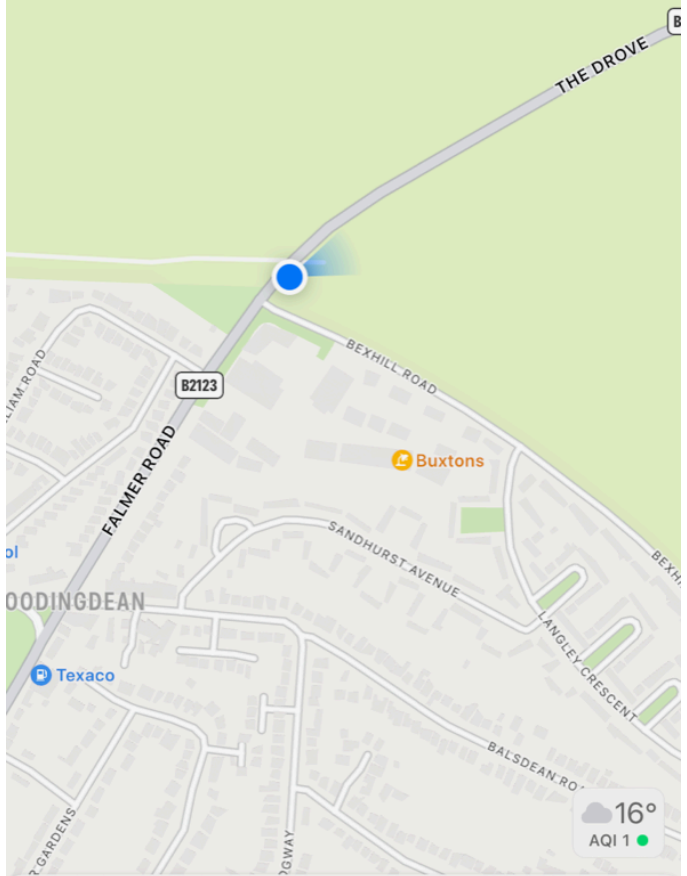
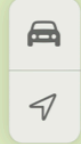
Hazard	Who might be harmed	Evaluation of Risk	Risk mitigation measures	Comments
Bad weather	All participants	Low / Medium	Cancel or curtail walk	Monitor weather forecast
Lightning storms	All participants	Low/medium	Cancel or curtail walk	Monitor weather forecast
Snow and ice	All participants	Low	Cancel or curtail walk	Unlikely in spring and summer when walks are planned.
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/medium	Participants might wish to bring a walking stick or walking pole. Participants need to exercise care.	Participants have to make judgements and take care - this walk involves some steep inclines.
Muddy conditions	All participants	Low	Participants need suitable footwear and to take care if mud could result in slips and falls.	Monitor weather forecast - only an issue after heavy or prolonged periods of rain falls.
Standing water and flooding	N/A			
Slippery surfaces	N/A			
Steep slopes	All participants	Low/medium	Walking pole or similar and good walking boots recommended	
Trip hazards	N/A			
Stiles and gates	N/A			
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	Medium	Suitable footwear mitigates any risks.	Adders are present and should not be interfered with. Follow the directions of the very experienced walk leader.
Farm or wild animals	All participants	Low/medium	Any animals must must be given a wide birth, especially if they have young.	
Railway crossing	N/A			

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