

SDOS Birding Walks Risk Assessment Form:

Assessor: Jenny Holter Date of Assessment 1/5/26

Location: Woolbeding Common

Brief Description: Very short walk across flat, sandy heathland, to viewpoint. There is a small public car park adjacent to Woolbeding Common.

Suggested clothing: Weather dependent. Check forecast prior to the event. Participants will be seated in one spot for some time and there is no shelter from rain or sun. Sturdy footwear is recommended and long trousers are also recommended to protect from the risk of ticks and biting insects.

Hazard	Who might be harmed	Evaluation of Risk	Risk mitigation measures	Comments
Bad weather	All participants	Low / Medium	Bring warm layers and waterproof clothing.	Monitor weather forecast
Lightning storms	All participants		Cancel or curtail walk	Monitor weather forecast
Snow and ice	All participants	Low	Cancel or curtail walk	Very unlikely in summer. Monitor weather forecast
Darkness, cloud, fog	All participants	Low	Cancel or curtail walk.	Monitor weather forecast
Hot weather	All participants	Low	Wear suitable clothing. Including a sun hat. Use sun cream and bring a drink.	
Uneven walking surfaces	All participants	Low/	Advise participants to exercise care. Less mobile participants may wish to use a walking stick or pole.	The short walk is on a flat path.
Muddy conditions	All participants	Low	Avoid boggy areas if conditions are wet.	Monitor weather forecast and make use of local information about conditions. Most of the heath is likely to be dry in the summer.

Road crossing	All participants	Medium	There is a minor road crossing from the car park to the heath. Participants should take care and look and listen for traffic	Participants are expected to take care when crossing the road.
Trip hazards	All participants	Low	Advise participants to take care.	
Obstructive vegetation and stinging or thorny plants	All participants	Low/medium	Participants should exercise care and wear suitable footwear. We recommend long trousers to protect against scratching.	Gorse, heather or bracken may occasionally encroach on the route.
Falling trees or branches	All participants	Low		
Biting insects	All participants	Low/medium	Participants to wear suitable footwear and clothing. We recommend long trousers to protect against biting insects and the possibility of ticks. Also to consider use of insect repellent.	Seasonal, but likely to be active on summer evening walks.
Farm or other animals	All participants	Low	Avoid any grazing animals. And give them a wide berth.	
Snakes	All participants	Low	Suitable footwear mitigates any risk.	