

Risk Assessment

Activity: Birdwatching

Group Leader: David Greenwood

The Birdwatching Group shares cars to get to the venue of the month. These tend to be nature reserves or parks, e.g. Newton St Cyres Arboretum, Seaton Wetlands, Stover, Bowling Green etc. All walking is on good paths or minor roads, depending on parking. Walking is generally slow with many stops and seating in hides.

Possible Hazard	Mitigation
Severe Weather. Risk of getting lost in fog and falling objects from wind.	Birdwatching cannot take place in severe weather. The group leader will cancel by email.
Exposure to sun. Risk of sunburn or dehydration.	Group leader will remind birders to wear sunhats, use sunscreen and take water to drink if the weather looks to be hot. On very hot days, walks will be cancelled.
Wet or cold weather. Risk of getting cold.	Venues are only confirmed a day or two prior to the event, taking weather forecasts into account, e.g. venues with hides and shelter. Birders should wear warm/waterproof clothing and the group leader will not take people without suitable clothing or footwear.
Uneven ground. Risk of Trips or Falls	Walking is unlikely to be on poor ground. Those walkers who may require extra support should use a walking stick. Any issues at the venue will be notified beforehand.

Roads. Risk of accidents when crossing roads / encountering traffic when walking along quiet country roads.	Road crossing is generally unlikely, except maybe from car parks. Otherwise, the usual precautions will be taken by each birder. When walking on minor roads, the front and the back walker will keep a look-out for traffic and warn the rest of the group.
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Risk of someone being unwell on the walk.	Group leader will take a mobile phone to contact emergency services. In cases of nonemergency situations, the group leader may fetch their car and retrieve the birdwatcher.
Risks Particular to the walk	The group leader will have visited the venue and warn about any particular hazards relevant via email.

Date of Review: August 2025