

Risks on site

To enjoy Walborough safely or if you are considering visiting the site with a group you will want to know about the potential risks on site and how control for them. You could use the below list to help you when creating your own risk assessments ahead of visits.

Risk	Description	Control measures
Slips, trips or falls	Uneven, muddy or slippery ground can lead to potential falls and injury.	Wear appropriate clothing including footwear and take care when exploring especially in wet or icy conditions. Point out any particularly hazardous spots to others.
Dogs	There will likely be dogs at Walborough and therefore there will also, unfortunately, likely be dog mess.	Do not approach any dogs and watch out for dog mess. Carry water to wash any mess off shoes or clothes.
Insects and plants	There will be some plants or insects that live on site that could lead to stings, bites or irritation.	Be aware of any severe allergies ahead of the visit and bring any sting relief with you. Wearing long trousers and staying on the path can help avoid nettles and other plants that may cause irritation.
Livestock	Walborough and surrounding nature reserves are often grazed by cattle.	Be aware of where the livestock are and don't enter field with livestock if you have concerns in your group. Make sure you give all livestock a wide berth and control volume levels. As always, close the gates behind you.
Weather	Hot, cold, wet or windy weather can all potentially lead to some discomfort.	Check the forecast before hand and wear appropriate clothing. Have plenty of water and sunscreen with you if sunny and avoid working under tree cover in extreme winds.
Vehicles	There is potential of agricultural vehicles on site and cars nearer the entrance to Uphill and near the Boathouse café.	Be aware of surroundings and keep eyes and ears open for vehicles.
Open water	There are areas of open water at Walborough including the River Axe, a pond and areas that could be flooded.	Be aware of these areas of open water and inform the group not to go close to the edge. Carry a throw line if you are walking near water.
Wildlife	Some species of wildlife that might be found at Walborough could potentially lead to harm if bitten, such as adders.	Never approach or attempt to handle a snake. Take care when walking through long grass or when lifting up potential refugias such as logs or stones.