

East End Pond – Risk Assessment

The pond is situated within a children’s play park with open access from all sides. A knee-high fence provides a barrier preventing pre-school age children running directly into the pond from the play area. It is a seasonal pond with water levels rising and falling throughout the year dependant upon the underlying water table and rainfall. Typically, the pond is dry through the months of June to October with water levels rising and falling through the months of November to May. The general public have had access to the facility since 1984 with no known or recorded health and safety incidents. The pond does freeze over in winter.

The pond is designated and maintained as a wildlife area rather than a sports and leisure facility.



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Hazards Identified and potential harm it could cause	People At Risk	Actions to consider to control the risk	Actions taken and/or further recommendations	Action when?
Drowning or falling through the ice in winter.	Young children (particularly under-fives), Children with special needs, General Public Volunteer work party members.	<p>Where possible keep pond edges clearly visible.</p> <p>The depth should be kept as shallow as possible whilst still maintaining the main function as a wildlife area.</p> <p>Edges of the pond should be shallow.</p> <p>Install a level marker/depth gauge within the pond.</p> <p>Keep the pond regularly maintained to ensure that the perimeter does not become overly obscured and that the area around the pond does not deteriorate. Remove any trip hazards.</p>	<p>Edges to be kept clear of brash and long vegetation.</p> <p>Any reprofiling of the pond basin will be carried out with the aim of ensuring that the maximum water depth, positioned away from the edges, does not exceed 1.5m.</p> <p>Pond will be maintained with gently sloping margins.</p> <p>A level marker displaying both metric and imperial depths from 0-1.5m has been purchased and will be installed during Autumn 2025.</p> <p>To be undertaken by volunteer work parties/Parish Council contractor.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Monitor and evaluate as necessary.</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Before Oct 2025</p> <p>Ongoing</p>

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		<p>Install appropriate warning signage.</p> <p>Consider the provision of Life Preservation Equipment e.g. a throw line, 'reach-pole' or similar</p> <p>Volunteer work party members to conduct their own risk assessment to mitigate the risk for all work performed.</p>	<p>The H&S sign at the entrance should be edited to indicate that the park includes a pond and that young children should be supervised at all times. Permanent <i>deep water</i> signs are not considered necessary as water levels should rarely exceed 1.5m.</p> <p>A lifebuoy with attached throw-line has been provided in a central visible location.</p> <p>Team leaders undertake risk assessment before work parties commence any onsite activity.</p>	<p>Before Oct 2025</p>
<p>Injury through being hit by falling trees or branches</p>	<p>General public using the facility</p>	<p>Conduct regular visual assessments of tree population identifying and assessing possible risks and specifying any recommended remedial works.</p>	<p>Visual checks to be made by work party volunteers and Parish Council members on an ad-hoc basis.</p> <p>Parish Council to commission a Tree Risk Management report from qualified Arboricultural specialists every 5 years.</p>	<p>Tree Risk Management report undertaken 13/11/2023. Remedial works carried out in June 2024.</p>