



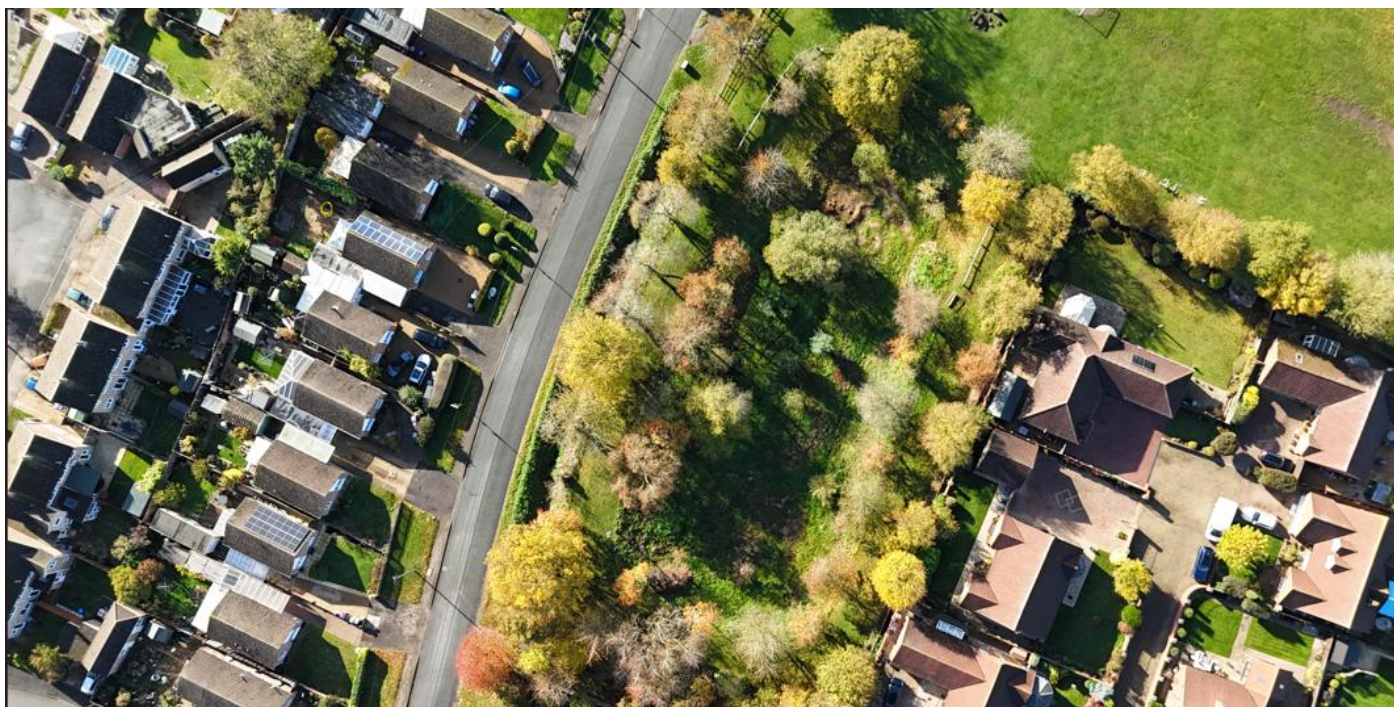
AquaServe Management Ltd

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Client Name:	Langtoft Parish Council	Quote Ref:	AQMA00261
Water Ref:	PE6022001	Perimeter:	167 linear metres
Water:	Village Pond (East End Pond)	Total Area:	1,316 square metres
Grid Ref	TF 12668 12889	Inspection date:	30 November 2025
		Inspected by:	Gary Magee CMIOSH PISEP
Prev Inspection	No Previous	Rec Next Inspection:	January 2027
Water Level:	Dry	Purpose:	Feature

Waterway Health and Safety Risk Assessment



Executive Summary

The Langtoft Village Pond, known as East End Pond, is located in the East End Play Area that also includes a children's playground, a sports field and a drainage ditch.

Aquaserve Management Ltd were asked to provide a Risk Assessment for the pond. As the playground and sports field will obviously attract higher numbers of people, including the very young, and as the drainage ditch presented hazards, it was felt that any pond risk assessment would need to consider the entire area.

The East End Play Area is an attractive, beautifully maintained amenity that promotes outdoor social activities and exercise. It will also offer habitats that promote biodiversity.

The recently restored pond is approximately 70 metres long and 30 metres wide. It is a seasonal pond, containing water for roughly half of the year, reaching depths of up to 2 metres. The pond and empty pond basin have been considered separately as the hazards in the two states are different.

The area is commendably managed by Langtoft Parish Council who have obviously considered the safety of the users. As custodians of the East End Play Area, Langtoft Parish Council have the dual and potentially contradictory duties to reduce risk as far as possible whilst maintaining public access to valuable public amenities. The safety strategy implemented by Langtoft Parish Council is reasonable and evident:

- The play equipment has been designed and installed by competent people.
- A knee high, single bar rustic fence was installed to deter access to the pond at the end nearest to the children's play area.
- Warning signage was installed at the two main entrances to the park.
- There is an effective inspection and maintenance programme in place.

Whilst the safety strategy was reasonable, there are two inconsistencies that could increase the risk of harm and litigation.

- There are three entrances to the area and warning signage is only displayed at two of them.
- There are two culverts that are significant fall hazards, one at each end of the drainage ditch. One of the culvert structures is fenced to deter access, the other is not.

Additional fencing and improved signage have been suggested as improvements to the current safety strategy.

The implementation of additional fencing and enhanced warning signage have been proposed to strengthen the existing safety strategy.

A suggested risk reduction plan is detailed overleaf.

Risk Reduction Plan

Locations are indicated on the location maps that follow.

What3words references are above the relevant pictures.

Description	Priority
There is an inconsistency created by fencing the culvert near the gate and stile entrance to the park and not fencing the equally accessible culvert at the footpath entrance. A fall from the latter is foreseeable, could result in significant harm and the inconsistency in guarding could increase culpability. It is strongly recommended that the culvert at the footpath entrance to the park should be fenced.	1
A "Danger, Risk of falling" sign on each of the culvert fences could further decrease the risks of harm and litigation.	2
There is an inconsistency created by installing warning signage at or near two of the three entrances to the park. Any harm suffered by a user entering by the footpath entrance to the park could be more culpable. Whilst current signage reminds park users that "Children should be supervised at all times", they are specifically "Danger Deep water" signs. These could infer that children only need to be supervised around the pond. Warning signage should also highlight uneven ground and risk of falling as potential hazards. The "Children should be supervised at all times" should be relevant to all hazards. The recommended signage strategy is "Entrance" and "Reminder" signs. Entrance signs are clear signage at all entrances, highlighting all of the significant hazards in the park area. Entrance signs warning of "Deep Water", "Uneven Ground" and "Risk of falling" are recommended at all three entrances. These should also include the mandatory (white on blue) notice that "Children should be supervised at all times" and the information sign (green background with white text and symbols) "In the event of a person falling into the water, DIAL 999 and ask for the FIRE BRIGADE". The sign should also quote the relevant What3Words location. Reminder signs are specific to one hazard and installed in areas of higher risk. Two "Danger Deep Water", "Uneven Ground", "Children should be supervised at all times" signs should be installed on the knee high, single bar rustic fence, and on the edge of the pond near the footpath entrance. A "Danger, Risk of falling", "Danger Deep Water", "Uneven Ground", "Children should be supervised at all times" sign should be installed on the "Log Pile". "Danger, Risk of falling", "Children should be supervised at all times" signage should be installed on the two culvert fences. An information sign (green background with white text and symbols) should be mounted on the lifebuoy stand stating, "In the event of a person falling into the water, DIAL 999 and ask for the FIRE BRIGADE". The sign should also quote the What3Words location "///reports.condensed.springing".	2
The side of the pond furthest from the play areas has accessible banks 10 metres from a public footpath. Consider if a knee high, single bar rustic fence to deter access would be of benefit in this area.	3
Consider if the staff gauge needs to be taller for higher water levels.	4
Fitting sturdy fixed trash guards to the culvert pipes could be considered.	4
Continue the programme of inspection and maintenance.	Ongoing
The next audit should be scheduled for January 2027 when the water level is assumed to be at its highest. An inspection in the evening would also be useful to gauge how visible the areas are under borrowed lighting conditions.	3

Priority levels key

Priority 1 – Imminent danger, action recommended quickly

Priority 2 – Significant hazard, action strongly recommended

Priority 3 – Safety improvement, action recommended

Priority 4 – Observation for consideration

Assessment Method

The assessor slowly walked the area to identify and assess any significant hazards. The assessor then spoke to a Parish Council member who provided useful information regarding the area use, inspection and maintenance.

Declaration

The assessment was undertaken by a chartered health and safety practitioner with experience of waterways risk assessments who is competent to identify and assess any significant hazards.

This subsequent report was critiqued by the Aquaserve Management Ltd director before being issued to the client.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'G. Magee'.

Gary Magee CMIOSH PISEP

Chartered Safety and Health Practitioner

30 November 2025

Location maps - Area covered in this report

East End Pond, East End Play Area, Langtoft, Peterborough, PE6 9LP

The references refer to the pictures included later in this report.



Risk Assessment Rating Key

The following calculation has been used as a subjective guide to rating the risk for the hazard:

Risk Rating (RR) = Potential Severity of the Outcome x Likelihood of Outcome

Anticipated Residual Risk (ARR) = Potential Severity of the Outcome x Likelihood of Outcome after additional control measures have been introduced

Potential Severity of the Outcome

1. No injury, slight pain or discomfort
2. Injury requiring first aid
3. Injury requiring time off or hospital treatment
4. Serious injury, potentially life-changing
5. Risk of death

Likelihood of Outcome

1. Virtually impossible
2. Very unlikely
3. Feasibly possible
4. Likely to happen
5. Highly likely to happen, almost certain

Potential Severity of the Outcome	5	5	10	15	20	25
	4	4	8	12	16	20
	3	3	6	9	12	15
	2	2	4	6	8	10
	1	1	2	3	4	5
		1	2	3	4	5
		Likelihood of Outcome				

Key

11-25	High Risk, further control measures essential
5-10	Moderate Risk, further control measures if practicable
1-4	Low Risk, no further controls required

N.B. The above is only a guide. If the assessor feels that more controls are required than suggested by this guide then the assessor's opinion is valued higher

Risk Assessment

Activities:	Play, sports, walking, dog walking and general recreation. There are residential houses close to this pond.	Site:	PE6022001, East End Pond, Langtoft, Peterborough
People at Risk:	Parish Council members, the general public and others. This will include the elderly, the very young, less able people and other vulnerable groups.	Date of Assessment:	30 November 2025

Entity or Hazard	Potential Harm	Control measures in place	C	L	RR	Additional control measures required	C	L	ARR	Pics
Pond. Accessible, uneven banks near water of unknown and varying depths.	Slips, trips or falls into potentially hazardous water. Potential for cuts, bruises, sprains, fractures and drowning.	The pond can be dry for around 6-months of the year. The side of the pond nearest to the play areas has a knee high, single bar rustic fence installed to deter access. Wide walkways around the pond are well maintained. Whilst the pond base is very uneven, a staff gauge has been installed to provide an indication of the water level up to 5-feet or 1.5 metres. Users of the area have a legal duty to take reasonable care of their own safety. Signage reminds park users that "Children should be supervised at all times". A small life ring and rope have been installed. The Parish Council inspects and maintains the pond and recreation ground.	5	2	10	Warning signage should also highlight uneven ground and risk of falling as potential hazards. The side of the pond furthest from the play areas has accessible banks 10 metres from a public footpath. Consider if a knee high, single bar rustic fence to deter access would be of benefit in this area. Consider if the staff gauge needs to be taller for higher water levels. Continue the programme of inspection and maintenance. The day of the audit was sunny and dry. Whilst this allowed observation of the pond base without water, the next audit should be scheduled for January 2027 which is likely to be a higher water level.	5	2	10	1A, 1B, 1F, 1G, 1J, 1K, 1P, 1Q, 1R, 1U, 1V, 1W.

Entity or Hazard	Potential Harm	Control measures in place	C	L	RR	Additional control measures required	C	L	ARR	Pics
Dry pond basin. Accessible uneven ground that changes with weather.	Slips, trips or falls onto ground. Potential for cuts, bruises, sprains and fractures.	The pond can be dry for around 6-months of the year. During this period, very uneven ground is easily accessible. The side of the dry pond basin nearest to the play areas has a knee high, single bar rustic fence installed to deter access. Wide walkways around the dry pond basin are well maintained. Users of the area have a legal duty to take reasonable care of their own safety. Signage reminds park users that "Children should be supervised at all times". The Parish Council inspects and maintains the dry pond basin and recreation ground.	4	2	8	Warning signage should also highlight uneven ground and risk of falling as potential hazards. The side of the dry pond basin furthest from the play areas has accessible banks 10 metres from a public footpath. Consider if a knee high, single bar rustic fence to deter access would be of benefit in this area. Continue the programme of inspection and maintenance.	4	2	8	1A, 1B, 1F, 1G, 1J, 1K, 1P, 1Q, 1U, 1V, 1W.

Entity or Hazard	Potential Harm	Control measures in place	C	L	RR	Additional control measures required	C	L	ARR	Pics
The sloping sides of the pond	Slips trips or falls onto ground or into water at the same level or from height. The resulting harm could include cuts, bruises, sprains, fractures or drowning.	The bank gradients vary significantly from sheer drops such as at the Log Pile to gentle accessible slopes. The pond can be dry for around 6-months of the year. During this period, very uneven ground is easily accessible. The side of the pond nearest to the play areas has a knee high, single bar rustic fence installed to deter access. Wide walkways around the pond are well maintained. Users of the area have a legal duty to take reasonable care of their own safety. Signage reminds park users that “Children should be supervised at all times”. A small life ring and rope have been installed. The Parish Council inspects and maintains the pond and recreation ground.	4	2	8	Warning signage should also highlight uneven ground and risk of falling as potential hazards. Continue the programme of inspection and maintenance.	4	2	8	1M, 1N, 1O, 1S, 1U, 1V, 1W.

Entity or Hazard	Potential Harm	Control measures in place	C	L	RR	Additional control measures required	C	L	ARR	Pics
Accessible uneven ground (excluding inside the pond area) that changes with weather and burrowing wildlife.	Slips, trips or falls onto ground or into hazardous water. Potential for cuts, bruises, sprains, fractures and drowning.	The Parish Council inspects and maintains the pond and recreation ground. Walkway and play areas are well maintained. Users of the area have a legal duty to take reasonable care of their own safety. Signage reminds park users that "Children should be supervised at all times".	3	2	6	Warning signage should also highlight uneven ground and risk of falling as potential hazards. Continue the programme of inspection and maintenance. The day of the audit was sunny and dry. Whilst this allowed observation of the pond base without water, the next audit should be scheduled for January 2027 when the ground may be boggy, slippery and possibly icy.	3	2	6	1P, 1Q, 1U, 1V, 1W, 1X.
Trees	Potential for falling branches and protruding tree roots. Potential for impact injuries as well as slips trips and falls. Harm could include cuts, bruises, sprains, fractures and head injuries.	The Parish Council inspects and maintains the pond and recreation ground. There are regular "walk around inspections" by Parish Councillors. Trees are inspected and maintained by a competent Arborist every two years.	4	1	4	Continue the programme of inspection and maintenance.	4	1	4	1A, 1C, 1D, 1H, 1L, 1J, 1K, 1M, 1O, 1P, 1Q, 1R, 1S, 1U, 1V, 1W, 1X, 1AA, 1AB, 1AC, 1AD.

Entity or Hazard	Potential Harm	Control measures in place	C	L	RR	Additional control measures required	C	L	ARR	Pics
The "Log Pile"	Fall from height onto uneven ground or into water. Potential for cuts, bruises, sprains, fractures and drowning.	The feature has been built well and is solid at present. The sheer edge of the "Log Pile" is reasonably well defined and clearly visible in daylight. The Parish Council inspects and maintains the pond and recreation ground.	4	3	12	Warning signage should also highlight uneven ground and risk of falling as potential hazards. Continue the programme of inspection and maintenance. The day of the audit was sunny and dry. Whilst this allowed observation of the pond base without water, the next audit should be scheduled for January 2027 when the ground may be boggy, slippery and possibly icy. An inspection in the evening would also be useful to gauge how visible this area is in borrowed lighting.	4	2	8	1L, 1N, 1O.

Entity or Hazard	Potential Harm	Control measures in place	C	L	RR	Additional control measures required	C	L	ARR	Pics
Culverts	Falls from structures onto ground or into water from height. The resulting harm could include cuts, bruises, sprains, fractures or drowning. Harm caused by a fall from a built structure is more likely to be result in a claim or liability.	Wide walkways around the park are well maintained. There is no obvious reason why users would approach the culverts other than play. Whilst the culvert could still be accessed, the access to one of the two culverts was deterred by a 1.5 metre tall, 4-bar fence. There is no pavement installed on the roadside adjacent to the ditch. Vegetation is maintained in a manner to further deter access to the ditch and culverts. Users of the area have a legal duty to take reasonable care of their own safety. Signage reminds park users that "Children should be supervised at all times". The Parish Council inspects and maintains the pond and recreation ground.	4	3	12	There is an inconsistency created by fencing the culvert near the gate and stile entrance to the park and not fencing the equally accessible culvert at the footpath entrance. A fall from the latter is foreseeable, could result in significant harm and the inconsistency in guarding could increase culpability. It is strongly recommended that the culvert at the footpath entrance to the park should be fenced.  Danger Risk of falling A "Danger, Risk of falling" sign on both fences could further decrease the risks of harm and litigation. Warning signage should also highlight uneven ground and risk of falling as potential hazards. Continue the thoughtful programme of inspection and maintenance.	4	2	8	1H, 1I, 1Z, 1AA, 1AB.
Culvert pipes	Larger culverts can be entered by people who could be trapped or injured by blockages or drowned by water surges.	The two culvert pipes are estimated at between 300mm and 400mm in diameter. The ditch is deep, has steep sides and it is not easy to access the pipes. Whilst it is unlikely, a smaller child could enter the pipes	5	2	8	Fitting sturdy fixed trash guards to the culvert pipes could be considered.	5	1	5	1I, 1Z.

Entity or Hazard	Potential Harm	Control measures in place	C	L	RR	Additional control measures required	C	L	ARR	Pics
Drainage ditch. 2-metre-deep ditch with steep sides	Slips, trips or falls from height into ditch. Potential for cuts, bruises, sprains and fractures.	Wide walkways around the park are well maintained. There is no obvious reason why users would approach the ditch other than play. There is no pavement installed on the roadside adjacent to the ditch. Vegetation is maintained in a manner to deter access to the ditch and culverts. There was no evidence of bridge building Users of the area have a legal duty to take reasonable care of their own safety. Signage reminds park users that "Children should be supervised at all times". The Parish Council inspects and maintains the pond and recreation ground.	4	2	8	Warning signage should also highlight uneven ground and risk of falling as potential hazards. Continue the programme of inspection and maintenance. The day of the audit was sunny and dry. Whilst this allowed observation of the ditch without water, the next audit should be scheduled for January 2027 when there may be water in the ditch, possibly icy. An inspection in the evening would also be useful to gauge how visible this area is in borrowed lighting.	4	1	4	1H, 1I, 1Y, 1Z, 1AA, 1AD.

Entity or Hazard	Potential Harm	Control measures in place	C	L	RR	Additional control measures required	C	L	ARR	Pics
Play area and sports field	Slips, trips and falls from uneven ground. Falls from height, cuts and puncture injuries from deteriorating play equipment. Potential for cuts, bruises, sprains and fractures.	The play area has been well designed and installed professionally. The play area and sports field were in very good order. There are regular “walk around inspections” by Parish Councillors. Play equipment is inspected and maintained by a competent contractor every year. Users of the area have a legal duty to take reasonable care of their own safety. Signage reminds park users that “Children should be supervised at all times”.	4	2	8	Whilst current signage reminds park users that “Children should be supervised at all times”, they are specifically “Danger Deep water” signs. These could infer that children only need to be supervised around the pond. Warning signage should also highlight uneven ground and risk of falling as potential hazards. The “Children should be supervised at all times” should be relevant to all hazards.	4	2	8	1C, 1D, 1E.

Entity or Hazard	Potential Harm	Control measures in place	C	L	RR	Additional control measures required	C	L	ARR	Pics
Public Rescue Equipment (PRE)	Loss of life or delay in rescue if equipment is missing, damaged or otherwise inaccessible.	The pond can be dry for around 6-months of the year. The side of the pond nearest to the play areas has a knee high, single bar rustic fence installed to deter access. Wide walkways around the pond are well maintained. Whilst the pond base is very uneven, a staff gauge has been installed to provide an indication of the water level up to 5-feet or 1.5 metres. Users of the area have a legal duty to take reasonable care of their own safety. Signage reminds park users that "Children should be supervised at all times". A small life ring and rope have been installed. A sign on the lifebuoy stand states "If lifebuoy is missing or damaged, please inform Langtoft Parish Council" and provides an email address. The Parish Council inspects and maintains the pond and recreation ground.	5	2	10	How useful a small life ring and rope would be in an emergency is uncertain. It is generally agreed however that the first action that should be taken if witnessing a fall into water is to alert the fire brigade, letting them know the precise location. An information sign (green background with white text and symbols) should be mounted on the lifebuoy stand stating, "In the event of a person falling into the water, DIAL 999 and ask for the FIRE BRIGADE". The sign should also quote the What3Words location "///reports.condensed.springing". This information would also be useful at the entrances to the park.	5	1	5	1S, 1T.

Entity or Hazard	Potential Harm	Control measures in place	C	L	RR	Additional control measures required	C	L	ARR	Pics
Warning signage	Harm or litigation due to insufficient hazard warnings.	“Danger Deep water, Children should be supervised at all times” signage has been installed at or near two of the three entrances to the park. A “Lifebuoy with Line” sign has been installed on the lifebuoy stand.	4	2	8	There is an inconsistency created by installing warning signage at or near two of the three entrances to the park. Any harm suffered by a user entering by the footpath entrance could be more culpable. The recommended signage strategy is “Entrance” and “Reminder” signs. Entrance signs are clear signage at all entrances, highlighting all of the significant hazards in the park area. Entrance signs warning of “Deep Water”, “Uneven Ground” and “Risk of falling” are recommended at all three entrances. These should also include the mandatory (white on blue) notice that “Children should be supervised at all times” and the information sign (green background with white text and symbols) “In the event of a person falling into the water, DIAL 999 and ask for the FIRE BRIGADE”. The signs should also state the relevant What3Words locations.	4	1	4	1A, 1B, 1F, 1G, 1T.

Entity or Hazard	Potential Harm	Control measures in place	C	L	RR	Additional control measures required	C	L	ARR	Pics
Warning signage (Continued)	Harm or litigation due to insufficient hazard warnings.	“Danger Deep water, Children should be supervised at all times” signage has been installed at or near two of the three entrances to the park. A “Lifebuoy with Line” sign has been installed on the lifebuoy stand.	4	2	8	Reminder signs are specific to one hazard and installed in areas of higher risk. Two “Danger Deep Water, “Uneven Ground”, “Children should be supervised at all times” signs should be installed on the knee high, single bar rustic fence, and on the edge of the pond near the footpath entrance. A “Danger, Risk of falling”, “Danger Deep Water, “Uneven Ground”, “Children should be supervised at all times” sign should be installed on the “Log Pile”. “Danger, Risk of falling”, “Children should be supervised at all times” signage should be installed on the two culvert fences. An Information sign (green background with white text and symbols) should be mounted on the lifebuoy stand stating, “In the event of a person falling into the water, DIAL 999 and ask for the FIRE BRIGADE”. The sign should also state the What3Words location “///reports.condensed.springing”.	4	1	4	1A, 1B, 1F, 1G, 1T.

Pictures taken during the site assessment

1A, 1B, A pedestrian gate to the recreational area. Entrance signage includes a Danger Deep water sign (///eliminate.belief.region)



1C, 1D, A well installed play area and sports field is in the recreational park adjacent to the pond (///overlaid.view.princes).



1E, A well installed play area and sports field is in the recreational park adjacent to the pond (///overlaid.view.princes).



1F, 1G, Danger Deep water sign at the gate and stile entrance to the park (///oldest.neckline.sneezed).



1H, From the gate, this 1.5 metre tall, 4-bar fence extends to guard access to a culvert at the start of a 2-metre-deep ditch with steep sides. The culvert can still be accessed from the sides of the fencing ([///calendars.biked.minds](http://calendars.biked.minds)).



11, The culvert can still be accessed from the sides of the fencing (<http://calendars.biked.minds>).



1J, 1K The side of the pond nearest to the play areas has a knee high, single bar rustic fence installed (<http://horseshoe.braced.showrooms>).



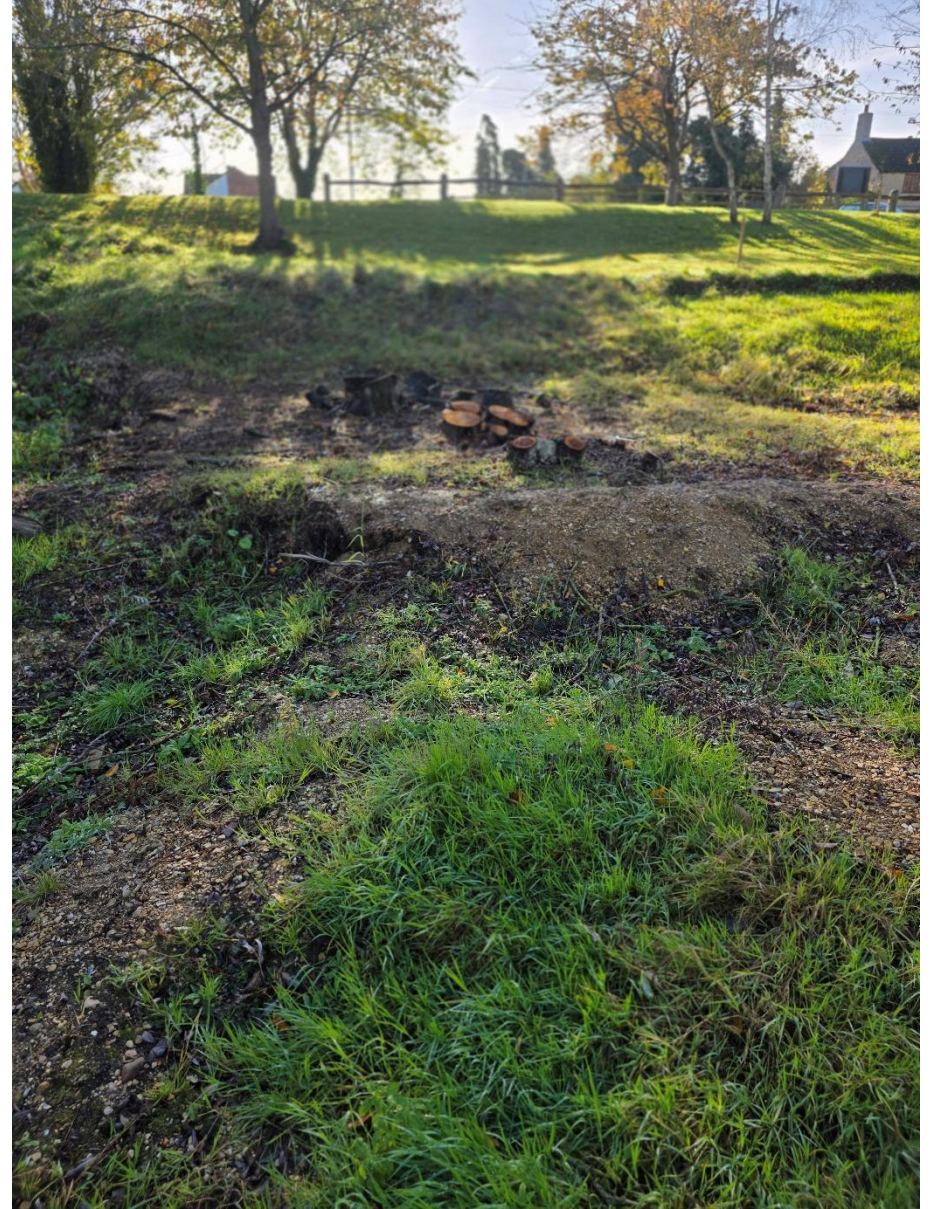
1L, 1M, A sign and bench adjacent to the Log Pile feature (///slipping.nudge.subsets).



1N, 1O, The Log Pile feature presents a 1-2 metre fall hazard. The feature may also become unstable as the logs rot over time (///slipping.nudge.subsets).



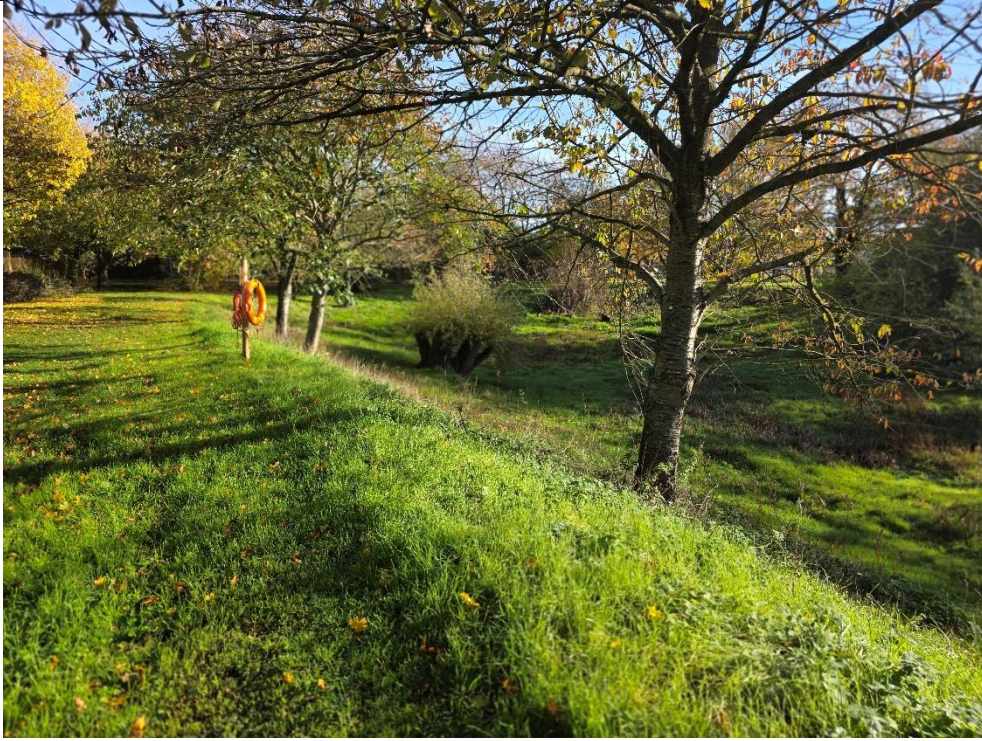
1P, 1Q, The base of the pond is reasonably solid, very uneven and stoney in places. Trees and stumps from cleared trees are numerous (///crispy.scatter.chuck).



1R, A staff gauge has been installed to provide a quick, visual measurement of the water level up to 5-feet or 1.5 metres. Correspondence has suggested that water levels can reach 2-metres. If this is the case, the staff gauge could be completely submerged at high water levels (<http://threaded.nitrogen.tickets>).



1S, 1T, A small life ring and rope have been installed adjacent to an unguarded section of bank and are in good order (///reports.condensed.springing).



1U, 1V, The bank gradients vary significantly from sheer drops such as at the Log Pile to gentle slopes as shown below (///topping.shuttling.journey & ///inflation.sobs.blurred)



1W, Further evidence of varying slopes and uneven ground (///badge.coil.wing).



1X, Like the entire park area, this wide walkway between the pond and the ditch is well maintained (///afternoon.glides.informal).



1Y, 1Z, An unguarded, accessible culvert is a 2m fall hazard. This 2m deep drainage ditch with steep sides runs along the side of the park nearest the road (///pulled.ourselves.slippers).



1AA, 1AB, This pathway with access to the pond, recreational and sports areas is 10 metres from the unguarded, accessible culvert (///pulled.ourselves.slippers).



1AC, 1AD, There is no pavement installed on the roadside adjacent to the ditch. Vegetation is maintained in a manner to deter access to the ditch and there was no evidence of bridge building (///reds.swooned.curable).

