

Potterspury Parish Council
MILL POND MEADOW
POND - WATER SAFETY RISK ASSESSMENT
 Adopted Potterspury Parish Council Meeting 9 March 2022
 Reviewed Potterspury Parish Council Meeting 8 March 2023

Environmental Factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conservation Area to encourage wildlife – flora and fauna - located near edge of village – area fenced and gated. • Pedestrian access by wooden footbridge only. • Vehicle maintenance access via right of way and padlocked gate – Parish Council and authorised contractors only - no public access. • Disabled access not currently available.
Behavioural Factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The area is expected to be enjoyed mainly by local people and walkers using nearby rights of way footpaths. • Quiet area for the peaceful enjoyment of nature and wildlife. • Not play area. • Pre-arranged organised visits by local school children and pre-school children encouraged. • Children aged 12 and under, and those with special needs must be accompanied by responsible adult. • No dogs allowed – two information signs. • Interpretation Board: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Emergency instructions – dial 999. ○ Safety guidance notes. ○ Parish Council website address. ○ Guidance for children aged 12 and under and those with special needs. ○ Keep to footpaths around and across Conservation Area. ○ History of area. ○ Wildlife to be found (with photos), include – red fox, muntjac deer, grass snakes, sparrowhawk, kingfisher, green woodpecker, dragonflies especially Emperor, crayfish in stream. Many other common species can also be seen
Pond Area - Ease of Access to Water Edge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The pond is located at the west end of the Conservation Area for wildlife only - not human access. • Approximate size 15m x 15m graduated on all sides except central part of north facing on the meadow side, which is sloped. • Depth varies from 45cm to 1.5m - depending on rainfall – in wet weather, when full, in region of 1.5m deep. • A post and rail fence over-clad with stock proof mesh surrounds the pond to prevent access. • A gate has been installed – padlocked – for access by Parish Council and/or approved maintenance contractors only. • Three warning signs installed on fence “Caution Deep Water”. • Rushes have self-set and meadow sweet planted and is self-setting.
The Water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water temperature is typical of a small pond, depending on ambient temperature. • Underwater traps or obstacles are unknown but thought not to be present. • There are no currents, and the clarity of the water is generally good. • A natural clay soil base retains the water. • Monitored for evidence of algae and weeds.
Existing Rescue Equipment, Signs etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is no rescue equipment. • Warning signs are displayed on pond fence.

Identified Hazards and their risk	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Drowning by falling into pond [low]. 2. Harm from tripping on uneven ground [low]. 3. Disease or illness from water [low]. 4. Algal bloom [low]. 5. Ice [low]. 6. Cuts from brambles, etc. [low]. 7. Stinging nettles [low].
Mitigations in place (relating to above)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Fencing around pond and warning signs. 2. Footpaths in Conservation Area to be mown in summer months. 3. Visual checks of water quality. 4. Visual checks of water quality. 5. Warning signs to be installed as required during prolonged cold spells. 6/7 Brambles and nettles to be expected as part of wildlife conservation. <p>Monthly inspections by Parish Councillors.</p>

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