

Weedon Bec Parish Council Allotments and Community Orchard

Risk Assessment

Location:

Riverside Drive, Weedon Bec: Title Registration No: NN313368

The 1.91 acre site is situated off Riverside Drive, alongside the River Nene. It is enclosed by housing on three sides with the River Nene on the fourth.

The Site

The compound has palisade fencing along the length of Riverside Drive with a pedestrian gate and a barriered vehicle access. The barrier is secured by a combination padlock. However, site has unrestricted access to members of the public, accessed through resident's footpath area to the side of the barrier.

The site is divided into 37 allotments and a community orchard. Water is provided by container and tenants are allowed to get water from the river in small quantities.

Each allotment holder has a tenancy agreement with the Parish Council. Allotment holders are required to observe the Allotment Rules that are designed to ensure the safe operation of the site. The notice board at the entrance has a copy of the plot Agreement for all to read.

The Community Orchard is managed by members of the Orchard Committee, not the Parish Council.

Facilities

No facilities provided on the site.

Allotment holders may apply to erect a shed or poly-tunnel on their plot for which they are responsible for.

The Council does not provide any tools to allotment holders.

The Community Orchard has a variety of small fruiting trees, herb garden and fruit patch.

Users

Allotment holders must be over the age of 18 years.

Legislative considerations:

Occupiers Liability Acts 1984 & 1957 – duty of care to all lawful visitors and trespassers.
Health & Safety at Work Act 1974

Risk assessment for individuals:

Hazard	Who	Level of risk	Action
Trips and falls typically giving rise to minor cuts and abrasions, twisted ankles etc.	Allotment users, community orchard users, visitors, contractors	Medium	Care to be taken by individuals; should be alert to local surface conditions, vegetation, etc
Blisters, minor cuts, abrasions	Allotment users, community orchard users, visitors, contractors	Medium	Each individual has to take personal responsibility for his/her safety
Use of tools - risk of injury to self and others	Allotment users, community orchard users, visitors, contractors	Medium	Each individual has to take personal responsibility for his/her safety. Contractors to undertake their own risk assessment.
Animal manure and composting – risk of infection	Allotment users, community orchard users, visitors, contractors	Medium	Each individual has to take personal responsibility for his/her safety
Sharps, needles, razor blades – risk of injury	Allotment users, community orchard users, visitors, contractors	Low in terms of finding such items in the site.	Each individual has to take personal responsibility for his/her safety
Bonfires	Allotment users, community orchard users, visitors, contractors	Low - Medium	Only permitted on site between 1 st November and 30 th April. Tenant who has bonfire must stay in attendance whilst it is lit and smoking and ensure it is out before leaving the site
Sunburn/hypothermia – risk to general health	Allotment users, community orchard users, visitors, contractors		Each individual has to take personal responsibility for his/her safety
Pesticides and fertilisers – risk to health	Allotment users, community garden users, visitors, contractors	Medium	Parish Council does not provide chemicals. Each individual has to take personal responsibility for his/her safety
Bee & wasp stings – injury Bee hive on site	Allotment users, community garden users, visitors, contractors	Low – Medium	Each individual has to take personal responsibility for his/her safety
Water catchment – injury to tenant carrying heavy buckets	Allotment users Community garden users	Low	Each individual has to take personal responsibility for his/her safety
Water butts – infection, risk of falling over onto a person	Allotment users, community garden users, visitors, contractors	Medium	Allotment holders provide their own water butts. Each individual has to take personal responsibility for his/her safety
Vermin - rats	Allotment users, community garden users, visitors, contractors	Medium	Each individual has to take personal responsibility for his/her safety

Risk assessment for the Council:

Hazard	Level of risk	Action
Damage to, wear of, infrastructure ie fencing, gates, water catchment area/taps	Increased costs for the council Low-medium	Budget accordingly Set fee levels appropriately Monitor condition of infrastructure
Personal injury resulting in a claim against public liability insurance	Medium	Monitor site and mitigate hazards Erect notice is there is an immediate danger
Volunteers acting at the request of the council being injured during that activity	Medium	Risk assessment undertaken to ensure the volunteer has the requisite skill set and the tools used are fit for purpose.
Allotment plots not being used in accordance with the Rules either by non-cultivation or for unauthorised purposes.	Medium	Regular site inspections to ensure that terms of tenancy are being complied with. Non-cultivation processes to be implemented.
Allotments uncultivated due to insufficient tenants. Allotment rents would not cover site costs.	Low	Waiting list maintained. Advertising for new tenants
Community Orchard - Personal injury caused by tools	Medium	Ensure any tools used are fit for purpose