



VOLUNTEER POND AND WATERCOURSE CLEARANCE AND MAINTENANCE WORKS RISK ASSESSMENT

Date	27 th September 2024 – Updated 8 th October 2024
Assessed by	Lucinda Edwards (Clerk)
Location	Broadbridge Heath Parish Council – Ponds and Watercourses (Locations noted below)
Assessment number	APPENDIX 7 TO PARISH COUNCIL'S ADOPTED RISK MANAGEMENT SCHEME
Circumstance, activity, task, system or area being assessed	This risk assessment identifies potential risks and precautions that volunteers must be aware of and may encounter on a site visit to conduct any clearance, or maintenance works on ponds and watercourses. Volunteers must read this assessment before conducting any work on behalf of Broadbridge Heath Parish Council.
Review date	May 2025

This Risk Assessment covers the following Ponds and Watercourses managed by Broadbridge Heath Parish Council.

**The Ducky Pond
Ditch behind Weston Avenue Allotments
The Village Centre Recreation Ground Ditch
(Future Attenuation basins to consider)**

Notes: By accepting to undertake clearance and maintenance works for Broadbridge Heath Parish Council it is assumed that this risk assessment has been read, and that you will take all possible care to assess and avoid the hazards listed and undertake activities in a safe manner.

If any incidents or accidents occur during the course of your voluntary work for BBHPC, please ensure you contact the Clerk as soon as possible.
admin@broadbridgeheath-pc.gov.uk 01403900665.

VOLUNTEER POND AND WATERCOURSE CLEARANCE RISK ASSESSMENT

HAZARD	RISK	People at risk	Risk rating (low, medium, high)	Precautions / Controls	Risk after controls (low, medium, high)
Dogs	Bites, disease, lacerations	Volunteers attending site	Low	Be wary of dogs off leads. Disinfect any bites and seek medical attention.	Low
Biological/ stings and bites	Diseases, allergic reactions	Volunteers attending site	Medium	Wear long trousers and long-sleeved tops to limit tick bites. Check thoroughly after site visits and remove ticks correctly if found. If known to be allergic to stings, take medication on site. Cover any open cuts/wounds. If feeling unwell, seek medical attention.	Low
Water borne diseases /Exposure to toxic water	Bites/ stings/ infection	Volunteers attending site	Medium	Cover cuts with waterproof plasters. Carefully clean and cover any new cuts or grazes. Wear protective clothing such as gloves. Avoid ingestion of water. Ensure hands are washed after contact with water. If feeling unwell seek medical attention. If toxic blooms/polluted water is suspected, do not enter or touch the water and report it to the Environment Agency as soon as possible.	Low
Sharp grasses and thorny bushes	Eye injuries, lacerations, cuts, infection	Volunteers attending site	Medium	Do not bend down or kneel in areas of known sharp grasses/plants. Disinfect any lacerations or punctures.	Low
Concealed holes/ ditches	Physical injury, ankle injuries	Volunteers attending site	High	Take care when walking through areas of dense vegetation or areas with poor footing visibility – avoid these areas where possible.	Medium
Adverse weather	Physical injury, death, exhaustion, dehydration, hypothermia, sunburn.	Volunteers attending site	Medium	Check the weather forecast before site visits. If adverse weather starts (such as lightning strikes) stop work immediately. Apply sunscreen and avoid midday sun in hot weather. Plan regular breaks and shade if working for duration in full sun. Avoid fatigue in hot weather and drink plenty of water. Wear appropriate clothing for the weather.	Low

HAZARD	RISK	People at risk	Risk rating (low, medium, high)	Precautions / Controls	Risk after controls (low, medium, high)
Ponds/ deep water	Drowning	Volunteers attending site	Medium	Take care when near any water bodies. Do not lone work near deep/unknown standing water bodies. Take caution when working close to fast flowing water.	Low
Floating vegetation	Drowning	Volunteers attending site	Medium	Avoid all areas where floating mats of vegetation grow out over deeper water or mud.	Low
Steep slopes / unstable ground	Physical injury, trips, ankle injuries	Staff and Volunteers attending site	High	Access areas with steep slopes with care, using proper access equipment. Take care with footing on unstable ground.	Medium
Slips/trips	Physical injury, death	Staff and Volunteers attending site	Medium	Move with caution in areas surrounding water. If unsure of depth, check with a depth pole before proceeding. Use safe access points, avoiding steep banks.	Low
Deep silt	Sinking and getting stuck	Staff and Volunteers attending site	Medium	Always check your footing with a depth pole before moving into water.	Low
Hazardous waste / fly tipping /sharp objects	Cuts, lacerations, infection, chemical burns	Staff and Volunteers attending site	Low	Do not handle waste. Wear gloves if required. If unsure of contents of containers or if known to be hazardous contact emergency services. Take care when picking up any potentially sharp objects.	Low
Manual Handling	Physical injuries, strains, sprains	Staff and Volunteers attending site	High	Do not underestimate an objects weight – wet/water filled objects are a lot heavier than the dry/empty counterparts. Always lift with your legs. Ask for assistance and use aids wherever possible.	Low
Flooding	Physical injury, death	Staff and Volunteers attending site	Low	Check for flood warnings before visiting a site likely to flood, especially after a spell of heavy rain – do not conduct lone working at flooded sites. Safety ropes must be used.	Low