

Stanwick Allotments and Community Garden Risk Assessment

Location

North side of Raunds Road at Parish Fields

Description

The 2 acre site is situated on Parish Fields. It is fully enclosed by stock fencing, with a pedestrian gate and a vehicle access gate. The gates are secured by a combination padlock.

The site is divided into 26 allotments and a community garden.

Water is provided by stand pipes.

The site is accessed from Raunds Road via a purpose built road access and a pedestrian gate. These conform to highway standards.

The Council has arranged for boulders to be placed on the adjoining verge to ensure cars are not parked on the verge which may obstruct the sight lines of drivers exiting the allotment access.

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.

Facilities

None within the allotments 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 Garden has a poly-tunnel and 6 raised beds.

Users

Allotment holders must be over the age of 18 years.

Where Stanwick School, Pre-school Play Group and Acorn Nursery use the site, they will be responsible for undertaking their own risk assessments and for the safety and security of the children in their care. They will be responsible for ensuring the correct adult to child ratio and child protection.

Legislative considerations

Occupiers Liability Acts 1984 & 1957 – duty of care to all lawful visitors and trespassers.

Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations 1998 for tools provided to the Community Garden

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 garden 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 garden 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 garden 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 garden 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 garden 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 garden users, visitors, contractors	Low	Not permitted on site
Sunburn/hypothermia – risk to general health	Allotment users, community garden users, visitors, contractors	Medium	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	Allotment users, community garden users, visitors, contractors	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	Rats have found on site. Generally tenants are not permitted to use rat poison. Two experienced tenants are nominated rat monitors. Professional pest controls to be employed as required. (Min 18.39) Each individual has to take personal responsibility for his/her safety*
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* A Health and Safety guidance note is issued with tenancy renewals and to all new tenancy holders. Note: Level risk represents both the likelihood of occurrence as well as the severity of injury.

Risk Assessment for the Council:

Risk	Level of risk	Action
Damage to, wear of, infrastructure e.g. fencing, gates, taps, poly tunnel etc	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 if 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 be 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 Garden - Personal injury caused by tools	Medium	Regular 'stock take' to confirm that tools are in good order & suitable for use. Appropriate PSE is available

Stanwick Community Garden Group have their own Public Liability Insurance, effective from 1st December 2017.

This report was offered to the Council in December 2020. Risk Assessment to be reviewed January 2022.