

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

Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005

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 |

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|---|--|---|--|
| 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* |

* 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 January 2023. Risk Assessment to be reviewed January 2024.