

Risk assessment

Company name: Village Green

Assessment carried out by: Tony Fairclough & Jane Rylands Bolton

Date of next review: April 2025

Date assessment was carried out: 4 April 2024

What are the hazards?	Who might be harmed and how?	What are you already doing to control the risks?
<p>Hazardous substances</p> <p>Skin damage from exposure to pesticides</p> <p>Poisoning of children from accidental ingestion of pesticides</p>	<p>Village green users, children and parents playing in the green coming into contact with plants sprayed with pesticides or stored on site.</p>	<p>The Wildlife Project team don't use pesticides.</p> <p>The gardening services team provide grass cutting and tree maintenance only.</p>
<p>Injury from sharp tools leading to loss of limb</p>	<p>Wildlife project volunteers</p>	<p>The wildlife project team are experienced gardeners using general gardening tools like spades, rakes, secateurs, and wear gloves.</p> <p>Children do not do any gardening tasks.</p>
<p>Poisonous plants</p> <p>Children get rashes from touching irritant plants</p> <p>Poisoning of children who eat poisonous plants</p>	<p>Village green users, children and volunteer gardeners.</p>	<p>Gardeners wear gloves.</p> <p>Gardeners are experienced and know not to forage or eat plants from a wildlife garden.</p>
<p>Dog, cat and fox faeces</p>	<p>Children can suffer from bacterial or roundworm infection (toxocariasis) if ingesting faeces leading to serious illness and blindness.</p>	<p>A sign asks dog walkers to avoid letting their dogs foul the green.</p> <p>Most dog walkers avoid the green.</p>

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		Bins are provided to encourage dog walkers to collect and dispose of dog faeces.
Cut injuries from grass mowers, tree maintenance and weed control	Contractors maintaining the mown grass areas and trees in the green.	Gardening services are managed by the Parish Council and by a private contractor, provided by specialist gardening professionals who have their own risk assessments and trained staff.
Slips, trips and falls	Users of the green and children playing might trip and bruise or fracture limbs. Wildlife areas around the perimeter of the green are uneven, have log piles for wildlife havens, and are likely to lead to tripping hazards.	Paths are well maintained with bark chippings. Playing area has routine grass cutting to maintain a safe surface. Organisations using the green require permission and are required to produce a risk assessment for their event.
Bamboo sticks and similar plant supports	Children tripping and blinding when poles strike eyes	Wildlife project do NOT use bamboo sticks in the wildlife areas.
High voltage power supply pylon	Children climbing the pylon or head injury from walking into support cables (path runs under cables)	Power Company provide industry standard protection of climb impediment and warning signs. Cables have yellow visual highlights.
Climbing trees and falling	Children playing in the green, climbing trees and falling leading to broken bones	
Green play equipment	Falling from play equipment, bruising and broken bones	Play equipment is risk assessed and maintained by the Parish Council.
Picnic seating decay	Green users might fall and bruise limbs, or get splinters.	Annual inspection to maintain seating.

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Green perimeter fencing damaged	Children playing may injure themselves climbing damaged fences with bruising or fractures.	Annual inspection to maintain fencing and boundary wall.
Dead trees falling	Green users injured by dead trees or branches falling on them. Trees and branches might fall and damage vehicles in the carpark, or strike pedestrians.	Dead trees removed spring 2024.
Control of rubbish	Sharp objects (litter especially glass) injuring users and children playing in the green.	Litter bins placed around the green. Volunteers litter pick on a regular basis with hi-viz jackets, picker sticks and bin bags.
Vehicles	Users of the green injured by impact to vehicles and gardening machines.	Access is restricted by physical fences with gate for gardening access. Gardening services provide their own risk assessment.

More information on managing risk: www.hse.gov.uk/simple-health-safety/risk/