



Puttenham Parish Council

WATER SAFETY SITE ASSESSMENT

Water Safety Inspection and Risk Assessment of
'School' Pond and 'Puttenham Down' Pond



February 2025

School Lane Pond

<p>Environmental Factors Proximity to populated areas; inns; retail / tourism; picnic area; car park; roads; especially attractive features</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On the outskirts of the village close to the school, residential properties and the car park • Road runs adjacent to the pond with vehicular traffic.
<p>Behaviour Factors Category and volume of expected users; walkers; drivers; public; unaccompanied children</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The area is used by occasional visitors to view the pond. • The pond is annually managed by volunteers. • Village events are often held near the pond.
<p>Ease of Access to Water Edge Open unrestricted access; type and nature of paths; natural obstacles; vegetation; existing barriers / fencing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The pond is fenced with a gate for access. • There are no restrictions to stop access. • The pond edge is accessible from all sides. • There is a viewing platform on one side of the pond. The platform is starting to rot and will need to be removed.
<p>Type of Edge Condition of edge: stable; unstable; nature of ground at edge; height above water; gradient of bank; features allowing or encouraging access to water</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The pond edges have vegetation on them which grows through the year. It is cut back approximately once a year. • The ground is stable and can be soft under foot close to the water edge depending on the season. • The pond edges slope down into the pond. • There are no discouraging features to restrict access to the water.
<p>The Water Temperature; underwater gradient up to 3.75m from the edge; max depth of water; currents; clarity; underwater obstacles or traps; tide; features e.g. weir, lock; blue green algae</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water temperature is typical of a medium sized pond. • Edges are generally shallow with a medium gradient. The maximum depth of water in places can be approximately 1m. • Underwater traps and obstacles are unknown but thought not to be overly present. • There are no currents, and the clarity of the water is usually clear.
<p>Existing Rescue Equipment, Signs etc.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a life ring located next to the pond on a post.

Known Accident History	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No known accident history
Risk Level (see matrix)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Probability of Accidents – Highly unlikely (low)• Severity of Outcome – Harmful (Medium)• Risk Level – Tolerable Risk



Puttenham Downs Dew Pond

<p>Environmental Factors Proximity to populated areas; inns; retail / tourism; picnic area; car park; roads; especially attractive features</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Located outside of the village a few hundred meters from the Hogs Back Café, on Puttenham Downs. • A footpath runs next to the pond from the village to the café (bus stop).
<p>Behaviour Factors Category and volume of expected users; walkers; drivers; public; unaccompanied children</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The area is used by occasional visitors to Puttenham Downs and dog walkers. • The pond is annually managed by volunteers.
<p>Ease of Access to Water Edge Open unrestricted access; type and nature of paths; natural obstacles; vegetation; existing barriers / fencing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is open unrestricted access to the pond edge. • The pond edge is accessible from all sides.
<p>Type of Edge Condition of edge: stable; unstable; nature of ground at edge; height above water; gradient of bank; features allowing or encouraging access to water</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The pond edges have vegetation / a fabric liner on them. The vegetation is cut back approximately once a year. • The ground is stable. • The pond edges slope down into the pond, on a medium gradient. • The pond edge is generally 50mm to 400mm above the water level depending on how dry the pond is. • There are no discouraging features to restrict access to the water.
<p>The Water Temperature; underwater gradient up to 3.75m from the edge; max depth of water; currents; clarity; underwater obstacles or traps; tide; features e.g. weir, lock; blue green algae</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water temperature is typical of a small sized pond. • Edges are sloped with a medium gradient. The maximum depth of water in places can be approximately 1m. • Underwater traps and obstacles are not present. • There are no currents, and the clarity of the water is usually clear.
<p>Existing Rescue Equipment, Signs etc.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is no rescue equipment and no warning signs are displayed.

Known Accident History	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No known accident history
Risk Level (see matrix)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Probability of Accidents – Highly unlikely (low)• Severity of Outcome – Harmful (Medium)• Risk Level – Tolerable Risk



Risk Assessment Matrix

Severity of Outcome			
Probability of Accidents	Slightly harmful (Low)	Harmful (Medium)	Extremely Harmful (High)
Highly unlikely (Low)	Trivial Risk	Tolerable Risk	Moderate Risk
Unlikely but foreseeable (Medium)	Tolerable Risk	Moderate Risk	Substantial Risk
Likely (High)	Moderate Risk	Substantial Risk	Intolerable Risk

Risks and Actions

Risk Level	Action and Timescale
Trivial	No action required
Tolerable	No additional controls required. Consideration may be given to a more effective solution or improvement
Moderate	Efforts should be made to reduce risk. Risk reduction measures should be implemented within a defined time period. Where the moderate risk is associated with harmful/serious consequences further assessment may be necessary to establish more precisely the likelihood of harm as a basis for determining the need for improved control measures.
Substantial	The activity should not be started until the risk has been reduced. Considerable resources may have to be allocated to reduce risk. Where the risk involves activity already in progress, urgent action should be taken.
Intolerable	Activity should not be started or continued until the risk has been reduced. If it is not possible to reduce risk even with unlimited resources, activity must remain prohibited.

Recommendations:

School Lane Pond – the viewing platform should be removed as it is starting to rot. No need for replacement.

School Lane Pond – the gate to the pond should be cordoned off during the annual Bonfire night event to prevent access to the pond.