

HOATH PARISH COUNCIL - Risk Assessment for Allotments

Last reviewed: 21st March 2025

The following risk assessment aims to identify potential hazards and risks associated with the operations of the Allotment Association. It is essential for ensuring the safety and well-being of members and visitors utilising the allotment facilities. This assessment will help in implementing necessary controls and procedures to mitigate these risks effectively.

Hazards Identified:	Risk(s) Identified	H/M/L	Management/Control of Risk	Review/Assess/Revise
Physical Hazards:	<p>Uneven terrain and pathways leading to slips, trips, and falls.</p> <p>Tools and equipment such as spades, rakes, and hoes posing risks of cuts, bruises, and other injuries if mishandled.</p> <p>Exposure to adverse weather conditions leading to discomfort or health issues.</p> <p>Presence of wildlife and insects leading to potential bites or stings.</p> <p>Hazardous plants or chemicals, if used improperly, may cause harm.</p>	H/M/L	<p>Regular maintenance of pathways to ensure even surfaces.</p> <p>Providing appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) such as gloves and safety boots.</p> <p>Conducting regular inspections of tools and equipment for defects.</p>	
Health and Safety Hazards:	<p>Overexertion and strain due to manual labour.</p> <p>Exposure to allergens or irritants from plants or soil.</p>	M/L	<p>Providing training on proper lifting techniques and encouraging breaks to prevent overexertion.</p> <p>Implementing hygiene protocols and providing handwashing facilities.</p>	

	<p>Inadequate sanitation facilities leading to hygiene-related issues.</p> <p>Lack of proper first aid facilities in case of emergencies.</p> <p>Exposure to sun or extreme temperatures leading to heatstroke or hypothermia.</p>		<p>Ensuring availability of first aid kits and trained personnel on-site.</p>	
Security Risks:	<p>Theft or vandalism of crops, equipment, or property.</p> <p>Unauthorised access to the allotment premises leading to potential safety concerns.</p> <p>Lack of proper lighting and surveillance increasing the risk of security breaches.</p>	L	<p>Installing fencing and gates around the allotment premises.</p> <p>Implementing a system for registering members and visitors to control access.</p> <p>Installing security cameras or lighting to deter theft or vandalism.</p>	
Environmental Hazards:	<p>Pollution of soil or water sources due to improper waste disposal practices.</p> <p>Introduction of invasive species or diseases affecting plant growth.</p> <p>Impact of extreme weather events such as floods or storms on the allotment site.</p>	M/L	<p>Educating members on proper waste disposal and composting practices.</p> <p>Monitoring for signs of invasive species or diseases and implementing control measures.</p> <p>Developing a contingency plan for extreme weather events.</p>	

Review and Monitoring:

Regular monitoring and review of the implemented controls are crucial to ensure their effectiveness. This includes:

- Conducting periodic inspections of the allotment premises.
- Seeking feedback from members regarding safety concerns.

- Updating risk assessments as needed based on changes in operations or environmental factors.

By identifying potential hazards and implementing appropriate control measures, the Parish Council can effectively manage risks and ensure a safe environment for all stakeholders involved in allotment activities. Regular review and improvement of safety protocols will further enhance the overall safety culture of the association.

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