

HOATH PARISH COUNCIL - Risk Assessment for The Paddock

Last reviewed: 21st March 2025

This risk assessment aims to identify potential hazards and risks associated with the Parish Council-owned Paddock that does not have any play equipment installed. Although lacking traditional playground structures, such areas can still pose risks to users. It is essential to ensure the safety and well-being of residents, particularly children, who may utilise the space for recreational activities.

Hazards Identified:	Risk(s) Identified	H/M/L	Management/Control of Risk	Review/Assess/Revise
Physical Hazards:	<p>Uneven or slippery surfaces within The Paddock area leading to slips, trips, and falls.</p> <p>Presence of debris, rocks, or other obstacles posing trip hazards.</p> <p>Potential for injury due to rough play or collisions among users.</p> <p>Exposure to adverse weather conditions such as extreme heat or storms.</p>	H/M	<p>Regular maintenance of The Paddock area, including removal of debris and repair of uneven surfaces.</p> <p>Installing signage to alert users of potential hazards and promote safe behaviour.</p> <p>Providing seating or resting areas for users to take breaks and reduce fatigue.</p>	
Health and Safety Hazards:	<p>Overcrowding during peak times leading to potential accidents or conflicts.</p> <p>Lack of proper seating or resting areas causing discomfort or fatigue.</p>	M/L	<p>Implementing measures to manage peak times and prevent overcrowding.</p> <p>Providing adequate shading or shelter from adverse weather conditions.</p> <p>Educating users about potential allergens, irritants, and safety guidelines.</p>	

	<p>Exposure to allergens or irritants from plants, insects, or environmental factors.</p> <p>Lack of adequate lighting posing safety risks during darker hours.</p>			
Security Risks:	<p>Theft or vandalism of property, signage, or amenities within The Paddock.</p> <p>Lack of surveillance increasing the risk of security breaches.</p> <p>Unauthorised access leading to potential safety concerns, particularly for unsupervised children.</p>	L	<p>Increasing vigilance or installing security cameras to deter theft or vandalism.</p> <p>Implementing a system for monitoring and restricting access to certain areas.</p> <p>Encouraging community involvement in surveillance and reporting suspicious activities.</p>	
Environmental Hazards:	<p>Pollution or contamination of soil or water sources due to improper waste disposal.</p> <p>Impact of extreme weather events such as floods or storms in The Paddock area.</p> <p>Presence of wildlife or pests posing health and safety risks to users.</p>	M/L	<p>Establishing proper waste disposal facilities with clear signage.</p> <p>Developing a contingency plan for extreme weather events.</p> <p>Conducting regular inspections for signs of pollution, contamination, or wildlife activity.</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 Paddock and surrounding areas.

- Seeking feedback from residents and users regarding safety concerns.
- Updating risk assessments as needed based on changes in usage patterns 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 users of The Paddock. Despite the absence of traditional playground equipment, proactive measures can mitigate risks and promote the enjoyment of the space for the community. Regular review and improvement of safety protocols will further enhance safety and usability.

Caroline Read
Parish Clerk & RFO
Hoath Parish Council