

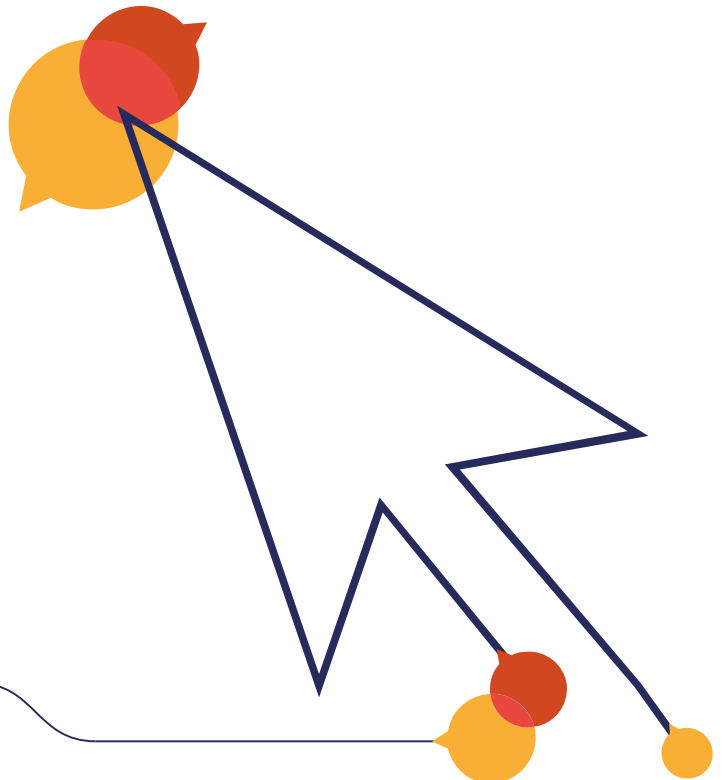


accidents don't have to happen

Water Meadows, Woodstock

Water Safety Review

Version: Final
Date: 20/11/2023



Water Meadows, Woodstock

Review Methodology

The water features are categorised into logical segments. Each segment is then evaluated using the RoSPA risk rating tool. Recommendations are then made against any unacceptably high levels of risk. The aim is to ensure that the feature, once completed, provides an acceptably safe amenity for the local residents and visitors, and that all stakeholders can be confident that the water features are safe and have been designed responsibly.

Safety Review (Summary)

Watercourse/ Development	Water Meadows, Woodstock
Responsible organisation	Woodstock Town Council
RoSPA Reference:	5301552324

Overall risk rating score(s)

Risk Rating Table	
0-30	Very low level of risk
31- 40	Lower risk level
41-50	Medium risk level
51-70	Increased risk
71- 80	Higher risk level
81-100	Very high risk

Segment No.	Description	Segment Risk rating score
1.	Channels	41
2.	River Glyme	44
3.	Pond 1	22
4.	Pond 2	22

Summary of findings and recommendations

A pleasant community space with multiple historic features. Clearly a significant amount of remediation and improvement work has been undertaken since the last RoSPA visit in 2022.

Based on the condition of the walkways and paths, the footfall appears low. A high quality access walkway has been recently fitted. Risk rating score has increased slightly from the last visit, effectively due to the vegetation and condition of footways. This change of scoring should not be construed that the good work completed has not been effective.

There was evidence of fishing, (an area where crayfish have been removed and left on the bank) and there is little evidence of antisocial behaviour or damage to any of the structures or flora.

There is natural age-related degradation to the wooden structures (walkways, handrails and the deck boards) which are becoming unsteady to walk upon in a number of areas.

Vegetation in the channels and ponds provides both a natural barrier and a hazard to anyone that should fall in the water.

The river Glyme was shallow and fairly benign at the time of the visit. The area under the bridge and weir and close to Meadow 3 are the highest risk areas for drowning.



Water Meadows, Woodstock

Watercourse	Water Meadows, Woodstock
Responsible organisation	Woodstock Town Council
RoSPA Reference:	5301552324

Date of review	22/09/2023	Proposed Review Date	
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Describe the watercourse/ site.

Footpaths

Circular and intersecting walkways with four access points. Based on the condition of the walkways and paths, the footfall appears low and restricted to dog walkers and recreational strolls. A high-quality access walkway has been recently fitted.

Walkways along the water channel and intersections are generally unmade, there are at least four exposed aging boarded elements, not all of which are exposed under the pathway and vegetation.

There is natural age-related degradation to the wooden structures (walkways, handrails, and the deck boards) which are becoming unsteady to walk upon in a number of areas.

Walkways alongside the Glynne are stone chippings. This pathway is in a reasonable condition and a lighter colour, which makes identifying undulations and edges easier for a walker.

Water Channel

A narrow water channel approximately a consistent 3ft deep. The water is heavily vegetated with reeds, planting and roots.

A small pool is present adjacent to the weir, which is gridded with an access bridge. There is a tree canopy making an attractive den/ play area for children in this area.

River Glynne

The River Glynne was a gentle, shallow stream at the time of the visit. The edges were identifiable and avoidable. The edges are mostly bagged or stone edges with a variable freeboard of approximately 400mm freeboard to the water. There is an area where access is easier. There are protruding angles and other similar items must be expected, these could, of course, cause a trip or a secondary injury, to anyone in or around the water.

Weir under bridge 1

Access to the weir top is possible, but unattractive. A small pool has formed at the foot of the weir, but no unusual hazards were noted.

Environs

Interpretation and safety information is provided at the main entrances. Life rings are provided at three locations. Signage for flooding indicating "Danger, No Access" has recently been provided. This is clear and easy to understand.

There is a telephone number to report problems or damage. The legacy emergency phone is not considered essential for raising the alarm.



Water Meadows, Woodstock

There was evidence of fishing, (an area where crayfish have been removed and left on the bank) and there is little evidence of antisocial behaviour or damage to any of the structures or flora. Vegetation in the channels and ponds provides both a natural barrier and a hazard to anyone that should fall in the water.

Photo of the watercourse and site.



Example flood sign (flipped down for photo at time of visit)



New fencing and chaining indicating restricted access to footbridge



Water Meadows, Woodstock



Footbridge – rotten boards (handrails and post, especially on LHS)



New access ramp



Water Meadows, Woodstock



Bridge over weir with new post and rail fence in background and life ring with no housing etc.



Small pool at foot of weir



New fencing to bridge 1



Water Meadows, Woodstock



Paddling/ animal access to Glynne. Metal angle is located in centre of bay.

Additional photos of the site are available upon request.

Results

Footpaths

Footpaths are generally in a fair to reasonable condition. The footbridges and the wooden duckboards need attention and repair or removal.

The new access footbridge is a good quality with handrails and a high friction surface.

Fencing has been provided and barbed wire removed close to gates and styles.

Water Channel

The water channel is well established with heavy vegetation. The additional fencing and chain clearly indicate that this is not an area for the public to access. New no entry signage is provided which is visible from the footpath.

Access to the small ponds was very difficult due to the vegetation. There was no evidence identified of any regular access to either of these features.

The grille over the weir appeared secure and effective. (No entry was gained onto the top of this and no evidence noted of others gaining access for any reason).

River Glynne

The flooding signage has been fitted.

Weir under bridge 1 has had the additional fencing fitted to restrict access to the fall. There was evidence of access to the pool area below the weir. The life ring has been moved from its intended position close to the bridge (photos available on request). The life ring was left on the floor.

There was evidence that crayfish are being removed from the river and dumped on the bank, close to the entrance/ sign point near meadow 6. It was not possible to establish if any protected crayfish are being removed. There was no evidence of fish being removed.



Water Meadows, Woodstock

Environs

Liferings are provided across the site. Generally due to the high vegetation, shallow water and low radial distance of the water bodies liferings may not be especially effective. However, they should remain as they may offer some benefit during floods. If damage and repeated movement becomes an issue their provision should be reconsidered.

Location and interpretation signs are provided, visible and in good condition.

Mobile phone signal was available across the site. The emergency arrangements should be to dial 999. It is assumed that emergency services would access site via the gates off Brookside Court or Glynne Close. The site manager should liaise with the local Fire Service to familiarise them with this location in order to speed any emergency response.

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Water Meadows, Woodstock

RoSPA Reference	5301552324	Date:	22/09/2023
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No.	Recommendation	Priority	Action By	Completion Date	Signed
1.	Repair the boards on the footbridges.	High			
2.	Repair the handrails on the footbridges.	High			
3.	Remove or repair the wooden boardwalk areas on the pathways close to the channel.	Med			
4.	Ensure the risk assessment for the staff/ contractor clearance of materials from the weir grille includes the risk of a slip/ fall from the bridge.	Med			
5.	Refit the life ring near bridge 1 and clear the vegetation around the hook so that the life ring is visible and accessible.	Med			
6.	Monitor and record any movement/ vandalism of the life rings.	Low			
7.	Monitor any unauthorised fishing activities.	Low			
8.	Invite the local emergency services to visit the site to view the emergency access points on Brookside Court and Glyme Close.	Med			
9.	Continue to give water safety education to visiting school groups.	High			

If our recommendations are implemented the risk of someone drowning or being injured is likely to be at an acceptably low level, in relation to other water sites across the country.

For use by RoSPA client:

Authorised by
(Manager)

Print Name

Date

Version	Date	Originator	Reviewer	Authority	Details
1	22/09/2023	ND	NB	RoSPA	Draft for client comment
2	20/11/2023	ND	NB	RoSPA	Final Report





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