

Middleton and Aislaby

VILLAGE GREEN TOWN END POND



Risk Assessment - Wildlife Area and Pond

It is planned that the wildlife area and pond will become an established community amenity that attracts residents and visitors on a regular basis although numbers will be modest.

This risk assessment is prepared for governance, insurance and legal imperatives.

RISK Assessment

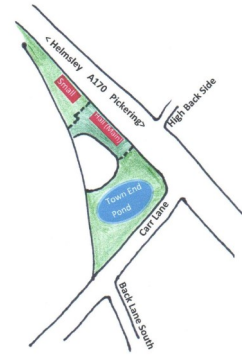
R) Proximity to populated areas, schools, inns, picnic areas, car parks etc

Situation at west end of village close to the Village Hall and set within the designated boundaries of the Middleton Village Green. Traffic passes to the north (high density A170) and east of the site with low density vehicular private and agricultural traffic.

There is common land foot access only to a privately registered allotment. The site is mown giving access to all areas.

The pond edge is of a sloping nature well above the normal water level. The water level can be low during the summer months although recent climate related changes are affecting this usual seasonal stability.

Apart from the surrounding wildlife area vegetation there are no discouraging features to prevent access to the water.



R) Category and volume of expected users, general public and unaccompanied children

Local people and visitors regularly enjoy the amenity of Middleton Village Green and Town End Pond. The wildlife area is maintained by a local volunteer team under the guidance of the Middleton Village Hall Committee (Sub: Pond Committee).

All working activities, clearance, weeding, planting are thought to be covered by this risk assessment.

R) Ease of access to water edge, open unrestricted access, type and nature of paths, natural obstacles, vegetation, existing barriers and fencing

There is open and unrestricted access to the ponds edge. Planting of shrubs, grasses and other vegetation will provide a modest edge to water delineation and act as natural barrier. There are two safety barriers positioned above the constructions housing the overflow pipes from the A170.



R) Type of edge, condition of edge, nature of ground at edge, height, gradient and features

The pond edges are clearly defined as visible. Delineation is provided by planting, shelf and banking. The ground is stable and can be softer underfoot closer to the water depending on the season and water level.

R) The water, temperature, underwater gradient and depth

Water temperature is typical of a small size pond. The edges are generally shallow with a low gradient. The maximum water depth is thought to be 1.2 m.

Inlet and outlet pipes are located in the pond. There are no currents and the clarity of the water is typical of a small pond but can be influenced by the intensity and volume of the rainfall and surface water overflow from the adjacent A170.

R) Existing Rescue Equipment/Signage

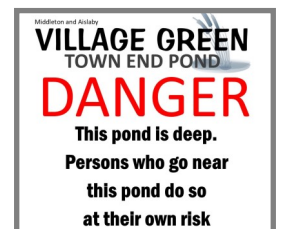
There are two hazard warning signs and a rope throw line with float

R) Known accident history : No known or corroborated incidents

R) Insurance: The risk is underwritten with-in the Middleton and Aislaby Village Hall portfolio of insurance cover held on file.

R) The risk level: MODERATE

Risk reduction measures should be implemented within a defined time period. A constant review of the moderate indicator should be undertaken on a regular basis.



HAZARD

Drowning/general public/volunteer team

- Where possible keep pond edges clearly visible
- The depth should be kept as shallow as possible whilst still maintaining the main function as a wildlife area
- Install a level marker within the pond
- Keep the pond regularly maintained to ensure perimeter does not become obscured and that the area around the pond does not deteriorate
- Volunteer team to conduct their own risk assessment to mitigate the risk for all work performed

Slips, trips and falls

- Slip and tripping hazards to be minimised or eliminated from surrounding area
- Volunteer team to conduct their own risk assessment to mitigate the risk for all work performed

SUMMARY

Striking a balance between the duty of care of the Middleton and Aislaby Village Hall Trustees and Committee Members, the risk of an accident to persons using this community amenity and the continued support of residents of Middleton and Aislaby is vital.

An open body of water presents a potential risk from drowning, and although it would be possible to mitigate the risk with a locked mesh cover, barrier fencing and excessive signage it would have a significant adverse impact on our ability to fulfil our strategic objectives of providing a community asset that will encourage the return of an environment that will support wildlife floral and fauna.

Permanent signage is in place and the planting scheme planned , both aquatic and marginal will harmonise the habitat with an implicit emphasis for the need of adult supervision of children.

The planned planting scheme is being designed to discourage/prevent persons from unknowingly/accidentally entering or falling in to the pond. A small area will be left clear to allow egress from the pond should someone accidentally fall in.

Document prepared 25th July 2023

By: Stuart Plant, Chair of MAVH Committee and Trustee

To: All Trustees and Committee Members

Linda Barr: Chair of the MAVH Pond Sub Group



Pond location/satellite view