

Seaton Allotment Risk assessment - 2018/2019



STC = Seaton Town Council

What are the hazards?	What is the current situation?	Do you need to do anything else to manage this risk?	Likelihood x Severity	Action
ENTERING AND EXITING THE SITE				
Potential accident when entering and exiting the allotment site	Vehicles and pedestrian use one entrance. Everyone aware there is one entrance, people take care on entering and exiting either when walking or driving. There is a low volume of traffic Gate is currently open – which provides easy access. Entrance kept clear. Ensure brambles are kept back	Maintain area and monitor. Hedges to be kept clear	1 x 3 = 4	
Accident with young children	It is the responsibility of the plot holder to supervise their children		1 x 3 = 4	
Accident with animals	Dogs are banned from the allotments		1 x 1 = 2	
TRIPS AND FALLS				
Tripping or falling into small stream and/ or causing bodily harm	Contractor has instructions to keep this clear by cutting the area at least three times a year. Contract to be reviewed regularly.	Monitor growth surrounding stream to ensure it is visible to anyone walking nearby.	2 x 2 = 4	
Paths not kept in good condition or littered with objects ie hosepipes	Plot holders responsible for cutting and maintaining of paths surrounding and leading to their plot, others to be maintained by council. Be aware of holes/damage caused by rabbits.	Everyone to be aware and report to council any dangerous areas that need attention	2 x 2 = 4	Review issues caused by plots digging down lower than neighbouring plot
Falling into water containers	Lids should be used to cover containers of water.	Plot holders to be vigilant	1 x 2 = 3	
MACHINERY				
Injury from operating machinery Strimmers and similar machines could cause stones or other flying objects onto adjacent plots	It is the responsibility of the plot holder/council employee to ensure their equipment is maintained and used safely (including wearing appropriate PPE) in accordance with operators instructions. Machines to be used with care		1 x 2 = 3	
Injury from operating or getting injured on damaged equipment, caused by burglary or vandals.	Plot holders can erect sheds and lock with padlocks. Working with local PSCO's to minimise risk ie engaging with initiatives such as Allotment Watch and Tool Marking initiative.		1 x 1 = 2	Review Allotment Watch with local police

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HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES				
Poisoning from – swallowing seeds, berries inhalng pathogens from compost heaps and manure - being in contact with weedkillers and pesticides	Plot holders and Council employees have sufficient knowledge to avoid these fruits and to take care around compost heaps	Monitor compost heaps and poisonous berries during inspections	1 x 2 = 3	
Hazardous substances found on site ie Asbestos	Allotment inspected by Councillors regularly	If found to be reported to STC who will organise disposal.	1 x 1 = 2	
Leakage of Flammable fuel causing bodily harm by causing a fire or inhaling or swallowing Storage of Fertilisers	Risk to user if chemicals are not used in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. If chemicals are held on a Plot holder's plot they should be stored securely in a non flammable container. Storage conforms to Fertilisers Regulations 1992 and Agricultural Industries codes of practice.		1 x 3 = 3	
PESTS / DISEASES				
Catching diseases – Rats can carry diseases ie, weils Infected ticks – Lyme disease Rats or vermin on site	Sighting of rats to reported to STC Check compost bin for evidence of vermin – ie burrows/dropping/sightings Be aware of the potential danger of ticks if found on skin	STC will if necessary lay poison and put up notices to advise if this is done	1 x 3 = 4	
Being stung from wasps/hornets	Currently there are no nests on site.	Everyone to be vigilant and to advise STC if a nest is discovered		
Legionella from stored water	No water is stored at the temperature that would promote this bacteria. There is no drinking water on site		1 x 3 = 4	
ILLEGAL ACTIVITY				
Raves, theft, trespassing, growing/ usage of illegal crops, or any other inappropriate or illegal activity	No issues on site	Any issues will be dealt with immediately. Police will be informed and if there is any involvement from allotment plot holders, notice on plot will be given.	1 x 4 = 4	
STRUCTURES / BOUNDARIES				
Danger of structures (ie sheds) falling and injuring someone	Check foundations, roof, doors, windows, walls are safe. Chemicals and fuel stored safety – shed locked. Should not contain broken glass or other hazards.	STC will inspect plots and contact plot holder should they have not dealt with dilapidated sheds/structures.	1 x 2 = 2	

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Breakage of greenhouse glass causing cuts and grazes	Broken glass to be removed from site			
Boundary fencing/ hedge to entire site Individual plot boundary	All fencing checked at least annually by Chair of Allotments committee to ensure it is in good condition. All fencing to be kept in reasonable condition, not overhanging on paths or drive ways.	Any problems reported to council will be dealt with in a timely manner	1 x 1 = 2	
BONFIRES				
Inherent danger in a bonfire spreading if left unattended causing damage to other plots. People receiving burns	It is the responsibility of the plot holder to conform to rules regarding bonfires and to be vigilant at all times.	Monitor any issues	1 x 3 = 4	

This document has been completed in consultation with the Phil Anning, Cllr Dawn Squire, allotments committee, plot holders and Craig

		Potential severity of harm		
		Slightly Harmful 1	Harmful 2	Extremely Harmful 3
Likelihood of harm occurring	Highly unlikely 1	Trivial 1	Tolerable 2	Moderate 3
	Unlikely 2	Tolerable 2	Moderate 4	Substantial 6
	Likely 3	Moderate 3	Substantial 6	Intolerable 9