Risk Assessment

Site Location: Eldon's Pond, Lytchett Matravers
Assessing Officers: Julie Wigg (Parish Clerk) Cllr A Bush (Chairman)
Date of Inspection:

Environmental Factors

Eldon's Pond is located adjacent to a recreation ground and close to a residential road. It is accessible to the general public and is a visible feature within the village. The site is used recreationally by local residents and is part of an area landscaped and maintained by Lytchett Matravers Parish Council for public enjoyment.

There is a pedestrian footway nearby and vehicle traffic is present on the adjacent road. The pond is near open green space commonly used by families, dog walkers, and visitors to the recreation ground.

Behavioural Factors

The general public, including families, dog walkers, school children, and occasional organized groups, such as pond dippers, use the area.

Swimming is not permitted. Pond dipping activities are allowed under supervision. Children, both accompanied and unaccompanied, are expected to visit the area, particularly after school hours and during weekends. Usage increases during community events held at the recreation ground.

Ease of Access to Water

The pond area will be fenced off to help prevent unintended access to the water, enhancing safety while preserving visibility and accessibility for authorized activities.

A gated entrance will be installed to allow controlled access for activities such as pond dipping. Access through the gate should be supervised, particularly for groups involving children.

The area features some shallow inclines which may be slippery, particularly during wet conditions. Paths and grassed areas lead to the fenced area around the pond. Users should take care when approaching the water's edge within the gated enclosure.

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Council Offices, Vineyard Close, Lytchett Matravers BH16 6DD
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Type of Edge

The pond edges are generally stable but softer near the water, especially after rain. Tall grasses and natural vegetation delineate much of the edge.

The ground slopes gently towards the pond. Users must exercise caution due to potential slip risks on inclines and wet grass.

The Water

- Temperature: Typical for an outdoor pond.
- Depth: Relatively shallow overall but depth may vary with seasonal changes.
- Currents: None.
- Visibility: Moderate; water clarity varies with weather and seasonal vegetation.
- Obstacles: Some natural debris and vegetation may be present. Regular maintenance helps limit underwater hazards.

The pond has recently undergone clearance and landscaping to support habitat health and public use. No swimming is permitted, reducing risks associated with deeper water activities.

Existing Rescue Equipment, Signs, etc.

- Safety signage is installed, clearly stating that swimming is prohibited and providing pond safety guidance.
- A life ring is installed near the pond for emergency use.
- Visitors are advised to supervise children closely, especially near water.

Known Accident History

There are no known recorded incidents at Eldon's Pond. Regular inspections help maintain safety.

Risk Level

- Probability of Accident: Unlikely but foreseeable.
- Severity of Outcome: Major.
- Overall Risk Level: Medium (as per matrix: Unlikely x Major)

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Risk Assessment Matrix

	Rare	Unlikely	Possible	Likely	Almost Certain
Catastrophic	5	10	15	20	25
Major	4	8	12	16	20
Moderate	3	6	9	12	15
Minor	2	4	6	8	10
Negligible	1	2	3	4	5

Risk Scoring Summary

Based on the Risk Assessment Matrix applied to Eldon's Pond:

- Likelihood: Unlikely
- Consequence: Major

Resulting Risk Score: **8** → **Moderate Risk**

Interpretation: Efforts should be made to reduce the risk by maintaining the fencing, ensuring safety signage is visible and clear, keeping the area well-maintained, and supervising any organized pond dipping activities. Activities at the pond may proceed with sensible, proportionate precautions in place. This scoring supports the management measures currently recommended for Eldon's Pond.

Lytchett Matravers
Parish Council

🚫 **WARNING - POND AREA** 🚫

- No Swimming

- Children must be supervised

- Authorized Access Only via Gate

- Caution: Slippery Surfaces

- Enjoy the pond safely

This site is managed by Lytchett Matravers Parish Council.

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