

# Great Somerford Free Gardens

## ALLOTMENT RISK ASSESSMENT

<b>1) Machinery</b>			
To User	Medium	Operating machinery carries a medium level of risk unless the appropriate safety equipment is worn, and the machinery is operated correctly. Injuries to hands, feet and face need to be guarded against.	Instructions for the use of machinery lie with the owner/operator. It is a requirement that Plot holders wear the recommended safety equipment when operating machinery (irrespective of the owner).
To other Plot holders & Visitors	Low	When strimmers and mowing machines are being used on an adjacent plot, stones and other flying objects can cause injuries to the face.	The instructions for these items of equipment make particular reference to the dangers. It is the responsibility of the operator to take due care.
To Children	High	Children can act unpredictably exposing themselves to risk from machinery.	It is the responsibility of the Plot holder to ensure that children are supervised. When young children are present on a plot, cultivators or strimmers should only be used where there are two adults - one operating, one supervising.  No children to operate machinery under any circumstances.
<b>2) Weed-killers &amp; Pesticides</b>			
To User	Low	There is a risk if chemicals are not used in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.	All chemicals should be used and sprayers etc. rinsed after use, in accordance with the manufacturers' instructions. If chemicals are held on a Plot holder's plot they should be stored securely and clearly identifiable.
To other Plot holders & Visitors	Negligible		
To Children	Medium	Children can act unpredictably exposing themselves to risk from chemicals	It is the responsibility of the Plot holder to ensure that children are supervised.
<b>3) Garden Tools &amp; Equipment</b>			
To User	Low	Injuries to hands and feet if equipment is not used correctly.	Garden tools and equipment should be used correctly, and appropriate gloves & footwear worn as necessary.  Garden tools and equipment should not be left on common paths or left available for others to use.
To other Plot holders & Visitors	Negligible		
To Children	Medium	Children can act unpredictably exposing themselves to risk from garden tools & equipment.	It is the responsibility of the Plot holder to ensure that children are supervised.
<b>4) Overhanging branches</b>			
	Low	Overhanging branches can cause injuries to Plot holders, visitors and children.	Low hanging branches and dangerous branches should be reported so that appropriate action may be taken.
<b>5) Trip hazards</b>			
	Low	Poorly maintained paths and the entrance can present a trip hazard to Plot holders, visitors and children.	It is the responsibility of all Plot holders to maintain their paths and to assist in the maintenance of common paths.
<b>6) Ponds &amp; water butts/baths etc.</b>			
	Low	Ponds & water butts/baths can be a hazard to young children.	It is the responsibility of the Plot holder to ensure that children are supervised.

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<b>7) Bonfires</b>			
To User	Low	There is an inherent danger in a bonfire spreading if unattended.	It is the responsibility of the Plotholder to conform to the rules covering bonfires.
To other Plot holders & Visitors	Negligible		
To Children	Medium	Children can act unpredictably exposing themselves to risk from bonfires.	It is the responsibility of the Plotholder to ensure that children are supervised.
<b>8) General hazards</b> (Including seeds, berries, pathogens from compost heaps and manure)	Negligible		It is the responsibility of the Plotholder to ensure that children are supervised, and normal hygiene is observed.
<b>9) Rats</b>	Medium	Rats can carry Weil's disease. Although this is rare it is a serious disease.	The presence of rats should be reported to a member of the Trustees.  Where rat poison has been laid down, notices are to be displayed to inform Plotholders.