

Risk Assessment

Costock Nature Reserve

This assessment is for insurance purposes and assesses the risks to people, It does not consider risks to nature.

The Reserve is approximately 1 ha. in area and is situated to the south of and borders a housing estate built about 12 years ago. The other three sides are agricultural land. Access is through a stile in the northeast corner and from a track on the west which is closed by a solid padlocked gate and is opened only by the farmer when accessing his fields and by the Reserve management team when working on the reserve.

The following are risks to the public and volunteers working on site:-

Hazard	Risk	Precaution
Ponds with slippery banks and varying water levels	Drowning, getting wet, sprains	Warning notice and Lifebelt
Uneven ground	Falling and sprains	Mown and even paths Note that almost anywhere in the reserve there are trip hazards in the form of exposed roots, tree stumps and fast growing brambles. This includes paths even though they are mown and cleared periodically.
Vegetation e.g. brambles, nettles and thorn bushes	Cuts and grazes, puncture wounds, eye damage	Management of vegetation and advice to keep to paths
Stings from insects	Slight	No nests on or near paths
Use of tools	Injury to user and others working or passing nearby	Only own tools used at own risk Volunteers told of need for care

As this site is near houses, help is near at hand in case of serious accident of which the risk is very low.

Written by John Young and approved by the Reserve Management Group on behalf of Costock Parish Council on 10 June 2017.