

Marconi Ponds Nature Reserve

www.marconiponds.co.uk

Meteor Way postcode: CM1 2RL

Cromar Way postcode: CM1 2QE

Parkinson Drive postcode: CM1 3GW

Risk Assessment for visiting groups – KS1 and KS2 children

Brownies, Rainbows, Beavers, Cubs, Holiday groups

Pre visit:

Details will be sent to school/ group at least two weeks before the visit.

Group leaders will be encouraged to visit the site before their visit. The Nature Reserve is open at all times but if leaders wish to see the ponds they will need to make arrangements with a key holder who will accompany them inside the fenced area surrounding the ponds.

SEN: Teachers/group leaders should provide information of any special needs which may need consideration during the visit.

Hazard Level: [Low risk](#), [Medium risk](#), [High risk](#).

| Hazard | Strategies to control hazard |
|--|---|
| Children may try to eat berries, leaves or put fingers in mouths or handle food after pond dipping. Medium risk | The session will begin with a brief Health and Safety Talk, reminding children that they should never try and eat berries or leaves, even blackberries. It will also discuss Hog Weed (although there is no Giant Hog Weed on the site). It will also remind children about washing their hands after the visit and the reasons why. Adults will supervise the children in their group. |
| Hog Weed (regularly reviewed) NO giant hogweed species on site. Low risk . | We have identified where the hogweed grows, whilst the hogweed on site is not the dangerous type, we regularly remove as much as possible and cutting any plants to ground level to ensure it does not grow tall or seed. |
| Children could trip on uneven pathways. Low risk . Children could suffer minor cuts and grazes. Medium risk . Children could be stung by insects or nettles Medium risk . | Children will be reminded to be careful on uneven paths, there will be a First Aid kit available within the ponds area with antiseptic wipes. Children will be warned about nettles and about picking up any sharp or unrecognised items the First Aid kit will contain antiseptic wipes and cream (if permitted). |

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| <p>Children could slip or fall into the pond. Low risk.</p> <p>Weil's disease Low risk.</p> <p>Children could stray from the group and be abducted by a stranger. Low risk.</p> <p>Children could need the toilet. Low risk.</p> | <p>The area where the children are allowed will be clearly defined with hazard tape or similar. Children will be warned to take extra care near the pond. Children should stay with their group and their adult who will supervise the children.</p> <p>The water is shallow near the edges of both ponds where the children will be dipping. There are steps cut into the edges of the small pond.</p> <p>If children are pond dipping, if any child has a cut or a graze on their hands they should be given plastic gloves to wear. (not latex).</p> <p>There is one main pathway through the site, an adult should be at the rear of the group and children will stay on the path and in their groups with their adult. The gates will be shut whilst the group are working within the pond area.</p> <p>There are no toilets on the site. The nearest public toilets are in Central Park. There are plenty of bushes and 'discrete' corners in case of emergencies.</p> |
| <p>A child could have a serious injury. Low risk.</p> | <p>Emergency vehicle access closest to the site can be accessed via Teledyne e2v's car park and back gate, alternatively the nearest roadway is Parkinson Drive on the Village, or Cromer Way (beyond Homebase) postcode CM1 2QE. The site's postcode is CM1 3GW Parkinson Drive. From the car park in Meteor Way the postcode is CM1 2RL.</p> |
| <p>Unpredictable and adverse weather conditions could occur. Low risk.</p> | <p>In the event of torrential rain there is only limited shelter beneath the trees. Children should bring suitable waterproofs in case of rain. Children should bring hats and wear sun cream if the weather is very hot, there is plenty of shade within the site and children could work in the shade. The areas by the ponds are open and there is no shade here. The children would need to wear sunhats.</p> |
| <p>A child could be injured whilst walking/travelling to the site. Medium risk.</p> | <p>The site is accessed via a footpath with clearly marked people and bicycle paths. Children will be reminded to walk on the appropriate path. Adults will be positioned throughout the party to remind children to stay on the path.</p> |

Activity Trail

| Equipment | Hazards for all pieces of equipment | Strategies to control hazards on all pieces of equipment |
|---|---|--|
| Chin up Bars (medium risk) | Children could try and use the equipment in an incorrect and harmful way. | An information post is situated by each piece of equipment. It shows an image of a child using the equipment safely and a suggested age range of 6+. Each board has a telephone number to contact if any equipment is found to be damaged or unsafe. |
| Parallel Bars (medium risk) | Children could fall off and injure themselves. | Each piece of equipment is surrounded by grass, or bark chippings within a specified boarded area defined by the makers of the equipment as safe. This is to minimise impact on falling. |
| Balance Beam (low risk) | Equipment could be damaged and vandalised, leading to broken parts and splinters which could hurt children. | Each piece of equipment is checked monthly and an inspection sheet completed. Each information post has a contact number for the public to report any damage. |
| Log Walk (low risk) | | Each piece of equipment was built from a kit provided by a reputable Play Equipment Company and erected according to strict instructions. The Activity Trail has been inspected by the Council H&S Officer. |
| Cross Beams (low risk) | | |

Wheelchair and Mobility Scooter users

Access to the site is down a tarmac path, vehicle access can be made directly to the site but permission and a key needs to be obtained from Chelmsford City Council, Parks department, to remove the bars at the entrance to the pathway at the end of Seymour Street, or access made from the Parkinson Drive end. On site the path in the main part of the reserve is fairly even and accessible. Within the fencing, the area adjacent to the gates inside the enclosure is uneven, there is a pathway of road chippings to the ponds but access for a wheelchair or a mobility scooter would be difficult. There is a cinder path and 3 steps down to the small pond. The ponds area is not suitable for wheelchair and mobility scooter users.

For key access contact Martin Windsor, Vice-Chair, Friends of Marconi Ponds Nature Reserve 01245 609557 email marconiponds@gmail.com or martinwindsor@blueyonder.co.uk Cheques for visit payment payable to 'Marconi Ponds Management Group'

Reviewed May 2023