

	<h1>RISK ASSESSMENT</h1>	RA No.	SL-101 Rev 1
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Assessment Date	March 2023	Review Date (To be within 24 Months)	March 2025
Work Area	Linear Parks across Milton Keynes		
Reason for Assessment (Tick appropriate boxes)			
Initial Assessment	<input type="checkbox"/>	Periodic Review	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Change of Work Process	<input type="checkbox"/>	Change of Personnel	<input type="checkbox"/>
Relocation	<input type="checkbox"/>	After an Accident / Incident	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Change of Equipment	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Abnormal Activity	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Other	<input type="checkbox"/>
Brief Description of Assessment: Linear & General Park Land			
Assessor(s): Michael Thomas (Health & Safety Manager)			

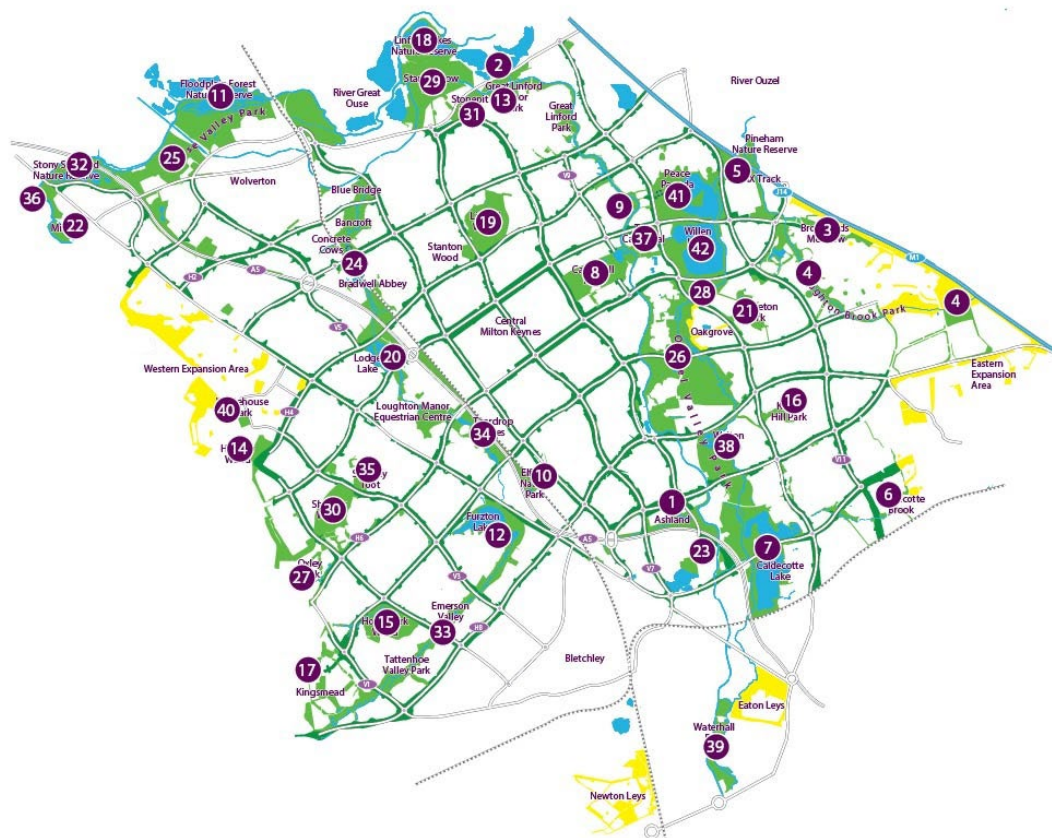
Hazard = Something with the potential to cause harm.
Risk = The likelihood of a hazard causing harm & its associated severity.

'Concentrate on the significant, ignore the trivial'

Part 1 – Hazard Identification	
1. General Description of the Work Area	Associated Hazards
<p>Parkland area comprising of a linear or general nature. Although the generic hazards associated with linear areas of park are the same across all areas, there may be individual characteristics associated with a particular individual location. These are indicated in Section 1, Part 3 (Method Statement).</p> <p>In general Parks will include many similar hazards. Some parks may have individual hazards, for example particular art installations, grazing cattle, bridges, electrical boxes etc.</p> <p>The main areas of linear and general parks are;</p> <p> Broughton Brook Caldecotte Brook Flood Plain Forest Kents Hill Millfield Loughton Valley Park Newlands Ouse Valley Ouzel Valley Oxley Park Stanton Low Stonepit Stony Stratford Nature Reserve Tattenhoe & Emerson Valley Tombs Meadow Waterhall Park Whitehouse </p>	<p>Trees [Falling Debris, Falling Trees, slips / trips / Falls]</p> <p>Water [Drowning, disease, algae]</p> <p>Impact [Vehicles]</p> <p>Weather [Heat, Cold]</p> <p>Biological</p> <p>Litter</p> <p>Public Art Installations</p>

2. Plant, Equipment and Vehicles in or adjacent to the work area

Associated Hazards



4. Broughton Brook
6. Caldecotte Brook
11. Flood Plain Forest
16. Kents Hill
22. Millfield
24. Loughton Valley
37. Newlands
25. Ouse Valley
26. Ouzel Valley
27. Oxley
29. Stanton Low
31. Stonepit
32. Stony Stratford Nature Reserve
33. Tattenhoe & Emerson Valley
36. Tombs Meadow
39. Waterhall Park
40. Whitehouse Park

3. METHOD STATEMENT Description of the task / process to be carried out (step-by-step tasks). This section should describe exactly how the work will be done and by whom	Associated Hazards
<p>To report issues to The Parks Trust:</p> <p>Phone: 01908 233600 (Office Hours) Email: info@theparkstrust.com</p> <p><u>GENERAL</u></p> <p>Each area of park is assigned to an Area Landscape Manager and / or Landscape Officer who have the overall responsibility for that area.</p> <p>Additionally, each area has a designated Community Ranger who will regularly patrol their areas and be a point of contact for members of the public.</p> <p>Few locations have any accessible public toilets or welfare facilities.</p> <p><u>TREES</u></p> <p>The park contains a variety of trees of different species. Trees are living and dynamic organisms that are affected by changes to the conditions in which they are growing, the climate, pests and diseases.</p> <p>Many factors can therefore lead to any individual tree becoming unstable and unpredictable, particularly as they age.</p> <p>It is not possible to completely remove all risk to the public and property of trees falling on them without removing all trees above a certain size.</p> <p>Therefore, The Trust's policy is to carefully and systematically assess all of our trees and manage and mitigate risk whilst maintaining its trees in good and healthy condition.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trees may be affected by numerous factors that affect their health & stability. • Paths may be slippery & muddy. Wear suitable footwear. • Never eat any part of a plant or fungi, or drink water from streams. • Observe good hygiene - wash hands, or clean them with wipes, before then eating anything. • Be aware what stinging nettles & brambles look like & take care around them. • Be aware of weather conditions and avoid sheltering under trees during storms. 	

WATER SAFETY

- Stay out of the water unless taking part in an organised activity. You cannot be sure what is in the water.
- If you end up in water unintentionally, float on your back to survive – cold water shock is a major hazard. Once your body has had a chance to adjust you will be better able to rescue yourself.
- Don't go into the water to rescue pets.
- Stay off ice – it probably will not support you.

ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

Members of the public who are subjected to anti-social behaviour, such as aggression, drunkenness or drugs related should report to the police using the 101 non-emergency number unless under direct threat in which case use 999.

The park is regularly checked and patrolled by The Trusts community ranger team and other staff members.

PUBLIC ART

There are a number of pieces of public art located in the parks. Further details can be found on The Trust's website.

The art works have individual characteristics and have all been assessed for their suitability to be located in the park.

Individual Park Features

Code of Conduct for All Dog Walkers in Milton Keynes Parks;
<https://www.theparkstrust.com/media/8800/dog-walking-code-of-conduct-2023.pdf>

• **Broughton Brook**

There are ponds and boardwalks at Atterbury and a small lake at Magna Park.

• **Caldecotte Brook**

Small play area and frog pond with viewing platform.

• **Flood Plain Forest**

Overall park contains a nature reserve area with bird hides. The site is designed to quickly fill up with floodwater when the River Great Ouse floods. At times of high water parts of the nature reserve are not accessible – but typically the water drains away within a couple of days.

Cattle & Konik ponies graze the area.

Dogs are not permitted within the designated wildlife area.

- **Kents Hill**

No specific hazard features. (Note: Parts of this area are referenced in SL-102 Wood Parkland).

- **Millfield**

Part of floodplain for River Ouse and prone to flooding at times of high rainfall. Some areas are under ownership of Milton Keynes City Council,

- **Loughton Valley Park**

There are two wet / dry balancing lakes at the Northern end (Blue Bridge & Bancroft). There are the remains of a Roman Villa at Bancroft and a pentique pitch. Public art in the form of the concrete cows is also in this area. A stream flows through the park with various bridges and a tunnel connects park either side of the railway.

- **Newlands**

No specific hazard features. There are some steps up to the canal bridge at the Western end.

- **Ouse Valley**

Contains a number of lakes & ponds created from old gravel pits. The River Great Ouse runs through this area of parkland. There are a number of fields used to graze cattle and sheep, A cattle creep tunnel connects land to either side of the Iron Trunk canal feature.

- **Ouzel Valley**

The large poplar plantation lies at the Northern end of the park. The river Ouzel runs throughout the park and areas form part of its floodplain. Cattle and sheep are grazed in various fields,

- **Oxley Park**

Has a play area and contains a number of small ponds & ditches as part of the local Sustainable Urban Drainage System (SUDS). Likely to be full after periods of heavy rain.

- **Stanton Low**

The Grand Union Canal runs through the middle of the park and it borders the River Great Ouse to the North. A large play area and BMX track are on the Western side. The remains of St Peter's church sit within the park. A public highway (although not metalled) runs through the park with sporadic traffic. Cattle are grazed in fields to the East of the canal.

- **Stonepit Field**

Has a wetland habitat with two ponds and exposed limestone area.

- **Stony Stratford Nature Reserve**

Contains small lakes and number of ponds with areas of trees, There is a dipping platform located at the lake.

Adjacent to the River Ouse and within the floodplain region.

- **Tattenhoe & Emerson Valley**

Tattenhoe Brook flows through the park and there are areas of woodland. Contains a trim trail.

- **Tombs Meadow**

Forms part of the floodplain for the adjacent River Ouse. Used at times for grazing cattle.

- **Waterhall Park**

The park borders the River Ouzel to its Eastern side and the Grand Union Canal to the West. Part of the Canal Broadwalk runs through the park.

- **Whitehouse**

Contains balancing ponds and areas of water. Has a play park.

AED Locations

The nearest AED location can be found using an App such as that available from the South Central Ambulance Service called Save a Life. Also websites such as <https://www.defibfinder.uk/> or <https://www.heartsafe.org.uk/aed-locations>

Emergency Access

The Parks have many points of access.

One possibility for defining exact location is by use of the app what3words that allows you to define an exact 3 metre square allocated a unique three word description.

<https://what3words.com/>

Assessors Signature(s) Michael Thomas (Health & Safety Manager)

ALL Those involved in making the Risk Assessment to sign

Part 2 - Detailed Assessment of Risks

Hazard. Potential harm and how caused (List all hazards identified in part 1)	Persons likely to be affected	Existing Control Measures. (Describe all existing measures taken to reduce risk)	Risk Rating. S x L (See Table 1) [e.g. 3 x 1 = 3 Low]	Action required to reduce / control risk. (Further improvements that could be made to the control measures. To be agreed with relevant manager & H&S Advisor)	Corrective Action Number (If further control measures required)	Residual Risk Rating (After further actions)
Trees [Falling Branches; Slips, Trips & Falls]	Park Visitors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Trusts Tree Safety Policy (Detailing the Trust's requirements for carrying out tree inspections & completing any remedial work) All trees inspected at frequency dependant on species / age / location / health The Trust employ professionally qualified arboriculturists Continuing program of landscape management Social Media warnings associated with extremes of weather / climate. 	3 x 1 = 3 LOW	<p>Visitors are encouraged to wear appropriate footwear and to take note of weather conditions.</p> <p>There are always likely to be natural slip / trip hazards in a wooded area, including roots, uneven ground, leaf debris, fallen or wind-blown wood debris etc.</p>		
Bridges, Paths, Signs, Seats, Fences [Injury from damaged structures, collapse of structure, Fall]	Park Visitors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sites patrolled on a regular basis by staff and volunteers. Leisure route paths, bridges, boardwalks are on a 6-monthly recorded, checking regime. 	2 x 1 = 2 LOW			
Landscape Operations [Maintenance Activities by The Trust or Contractors, including thinning, crown-lifting, felling etc.]	Park Visitors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work carried out only by suitably trained persons Work planned & scheduled appropriately Signs to be placed giving warning of operations. Ground team members act as lookouts Work stopped if members of public enter working zone On site assessments to be completed. Contractors monitored by The Trust Landscape Officers. 	2 x 1 = 2 LOW			

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Water [Drowning, Weils Disease, Algae]		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water Safety Policy TPT-1012 Water safety signage checked monthly – recorded in PSS System Swimming, general water play, ice play etc. not permitted and discouraged when known to be taking place Regular communication (via social media, Web site, press etc.) and educational initiatives undertaken to encourage responsible behaviour. Water activity monitored and recorded by Community Rangers. 	3 x 1 = 3 LOW	<p>The Trust will communicate messages about water safety in a variety of different ways.</p> <p>Where persons are found to be in the water, Community Rangers will explain the associated issues. (Unknown obstacles, cold water shock, health hazards).</p> <p>Follow good general hygiene principles. Wash hands after contact with water & before eating, drinking or smoking.</p> <p>Certain types of algae can be fatal to dogs – keep out of affected water</p>		
Impact [Vehicles]	Park Visitors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Car parks well laid out Restricted access for vehicles into park Authorised vehicles restricted to speed of 10mph, use of hazard lights and flashing beacon (if fitted) 	2 x 1 = 2 LOW	Signs to be placed in advance of any works in progress.		
Adverse Weather [Rain, Wind, Heat, Cold]	Park Visitors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trust staff make checks after high winds for damaged trees & debris. Appropriate warnings issued via web site & / or social media. 	2 x 2 = 4 MEDIUM	Public should remain vigilant at times of heavy rainfall & / or high winds. Public advised to dress appropriately for weather conditions.		
Biological [Animal Waste, Drugs Paraphernalia, Sharps, Human Body Fluids / Waste]	Park Visitors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regular patrols of areas by Community Rangers, other staff & volunteers. Regular cleansing of areas by The Trust or their contractors. Licenced commercial dog walkers 	2 x 1 = 2 LOW	<p>Parish / Local councils provide dog waste bins.</p> <p>Public should be vigilant and avoid any such hazards.</p> <p>Report immediate threats to the police and of maintenance issues to The Parks Trust.</p>		

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Litter [Cuts, Infection, Vermin]	Park Visitors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Litter cleansed to prescribed regime by contractors. Sites visited regularly by volunteers and staff who report on cleanliness. Arrangements in place (via contractors) for prompt removal of dangerous fly-tipped material. 	2 x 1 = 2 LOW			
Public Art Installations	Park Visitors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Art structures are inspected as part of 6 monthly Safety & Visual checks 	2 x 1 = 2 LOW			
Activities of Other Park Users [Events, Aggressive Behaviour / Animals, Anti-Social Activity]	Park Visitors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regular patrols of areas by Community Rangers, other staff & volunteers. Known anti-social behaviour reported to police. Liaison with appropriate agencies to share information. Parks Trust licensing process for events and activities in place Third party activities required to have own insurance and risk assessment. Parks Trust organised activities required to have own risk assessment in place and Events Safety Management Plan for larger events. 	2 x 1 = 2 LOW	Public advised to avoid confrontation and report anti-social behavior directly to police.		
Vermin [Disease, Damage]	Park Visitors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitoring & high levels investigated. Vermin control measures utilised as appropriate. 	2 x 1 = 2 LOW	Advice given regarding waterfowl feeding via website & Community Rangers.		

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Dogs [Uncontrolled, Excitable]	Park Visitors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Ranger Patrols Licensed commercial dog walkers 	2 x 1 = 2 LOW	The Trusts code of conduct for dog walkers available from website		
Rough Sleepers [Potential for anti-social behavior, drug use etc.]	Park Visitors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Location of any such encampments monitored Liaison with other applicable bodies Removal of any tents, litter etc once camp site vacated Public to avoid 	2 x 1 = 2 LOW			
Slips, Trips & Falls [Fracture, sprain etc.]	Park Visitors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sites patrolled on a regular basis by staff and volunteers. Leisure route paths, bridges, boardwalks are on a 6-monthly recorded, checking regime. Any manhole covers which are seen with a visual problem will be reported to the service owner or MKC if owner not easily identified 	2 x 2 = 4 MEDIUM	<p>Continuing annual program of leisure route resurfacing.</p> <p>Reported issues assessed and action taken as needed.</p> <p>Park visitors should wear sensible footwear and be aware that many natural trip hazards may exist within the park land.</p>		
Emergency Situation [Fire, First Aid]	Park Visitors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sites patrolled on a regular basis by staff and volunteers and any potential issues recorded. Maintenance on structures as necessary. In event of emergency, public should contact the relevant service by calling 999 or for non-emergency issues to the police using 101 	3 x 1 = 3 LOW			

Part 2 - Detailed Assessment of Risks

Table 1. Risk Rating

Risk rating = Severity x Likelihood

Risk Assessment		Severity (S) [Severity] & [Extent]		
		Slightly Harmful [Minor injury / illness, first aid treatment, minor equipment damage] [Affecting only one person] (1)	Harmful [Serious injury / illness, hospitalisation, equipment damage] (2)	Extremely Harmful [Fatality, loss of limb, permanent disability, equipment destroyed] [Several persons affected] (3)
Likelihood (L) [Exposure to Hazard] [Occurrence of Hazard] [Possibility of Avoidance]	Very Unlikely (1) [Minimal interaction] [Remote possibility] [Easily avoidable]	Low (1)	Low (2)	Low (3)
	Unlikely (2) [Much interaction] [More likely] [Some possibility to avoid]	Low (2)	Medium (4)	Medium (6)
	Likely (3) [Intensive interaction] [Quite likely] [Little possibility of avoidance]	Low (3)	Medium (6)	High (9)

1 – 3 Tolerable Risk
4 – 6 Moderate Risk
9 High Risk – Intolerable

Monitor regularly to ensure that the risk does not grow.
Potentially serious. Long term issues anticipated. Plan ahead.
ACT NOW.

Part 3 - Review

Category No:	1 Regular (24 monthly) review	2 Result of accident	3 Result of near miss	4 Change of process	5 Change of location	6 Personnel change
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Date:	Category No	Assessors/s	Comments	Action Required	Date Closed
Dec 2020	1, 4	Michael Thomas	Regular review & change to structure of site risk assessments. Individual site risk assessments withdrawn & replaced by zoned / themed risk assessments.	N/A	N/A
March 2023	1	Michael Thomas	Regular review. Minor edits. Stonepit – added information for exposed limestone area. Dog Code of Conduct updated. AED location links updated. Part 2 – Extra information for Activities of Other Park Users added (events)	N/A	N/A

