

## Friends of Emersons Green Park - General Risk Assessment

**Dated: 5<sup>th</sup> June 2025**

### General

The activities of the group are focused on two hours volunteering on Thursday mornings plus an annual festival, which has a separate risk assessment. The Thursday mornings are normally taken up with gardening type activities but may also include surveys of the park of various kinds. The group has its own insurance covering both gardening and festival activities.

No power tools are used during volunteer sessions. Any work with power tools, such as a brush-cutter/trimmer is done at a separate time by a trained, certificated person with a banksman and is covered by a separate risk assessment. Mowing, using a small electric battery powered machine may also be done occasionally in the orchard outside of volunteer sessions.

Identified risks relating to volunteer sessions are as follows:

Risk	Likelihood	Severity	Controls
1.Cuts due to improper use of tools	Medium	medium	All new members of group are supervised during their initial sessions to ensure proper tool use. First aid box is always on site and available. First aid box contents are checked regularly by a nominated member of the group. At least two regular members of the group are trained in emergency outdoor first aid.
2. Scratches due to brambles	likely	slight	Preliminary notice is sent to group when working with brambles with advice to cover up. Gloves are made available to those without.
3. Eye injuries	medium	medium/severe	Any obvious risks would be pointed out at start of session. Consideration given to use of safety glasses e.g. in hedge laying. Injuries would be referred to first aider or hospital as appropriate.
4. Slips, trips, and falls	Likely	medium	The ground in the park is fairly level but can be uneven in places, and there can be trip hazards like brambles and holes. The group generally work to remove such hazards wherever possible both for the public and our protection. We will generally avoid the potentially slippery banks of the watercourses as far as possible.
5. Safeguarding	medium	severe	Children are only accepted into the group if accompanied by a parent/grandparent/carer who always remains responsible for their welfare. This includes giving permission for any photographs.
6. Back injuries	medium	medium	Care taken with heavy lifting and advice given as appropriate
7. Privacy problems	medium	medium	Members of the group communicate via a signal group. New members are invited to sign up. Everyone sees what is being communicated to the group as a whole and can intervene where necessary. Interpersonal messaging is also

			possible by this means and is not controlled in any way.
8. Public communications are subverted by outside interests	likely	slight	Our Facebook group has nearly 700 members and does attract some outside posts of a subversive nature. These are removed by our admins and people barred as appropriate.

### Site Risk assessment

Most of our sessions are conducted in Emersons Green Park. There are few risks associated with this environment. A watercourse runs through the park in association with several pond areas, which are normally less than two feet deep at any point. The watercourse runs at a variable rate and can be strong after rain. The ponds can also rise significantly after intense rain. The group does not normally work near these watercourses apart from the occasional need to fetch water for plant. This is primarily done by using a submersible battery powered pump as this minimises the need to get near the slippery pond edges. This is always done with at least two people. The primary risk from this activity is trips and falls.

We have had bees in the park area and two of our members were stung while working nearby on a previous occasion. If a bee colony is found in the park notices will be put up to warn of the presence of bees and care will be taken in that area, with the general policy being that we will avoid working near where any bees are situated.

The dome village and dinosaur area is under the care of Friends of Emersons Green Park and is monitored regularly for potential risk and a record of these checks kept. Currently the only identified risk is branches becoming dislodged/broken and these providing a threat to eyes.

We occasionally work in other areas including Green Lane, by permission of Emersons Green Town Council and Emersons Green Primary School, as regulated by the school. These sites are assessed for risk prior to commencement of work. e.g. work was carried out in the pond area of Emersons Green Primary School, where the decking was rotting and the area invaded by brambles. Appropriate warnings were given to our members to avoid incidents

### Site plans re Emersons Green Park

We will continue to maintain and develop the orchard area.

We will maintain the dome village and dinosaur garden area.

We aim to maintain the hexagonal former painted stones garden and the wildlife garden.