MARSTON PARISH COUNCIL

Risk Assessment – Pond and Watercourses

People at risk and how:
Members of the Parish Council, Contractors, Volunteers, Public.

Marston Common Land has a Wildlife pond and several small watercourses/banked ditches running through it. Some of it is seasonal flow and other parts have standing water or flowing water all year round.
There is a risk of Drowning (especially young or unaccompanied children.
Weils disease and blue –green algae are also considered to be a risk.

Our Controls:

- Edges of the pond clearly visible.
- Deeper zone positioned away from the edges where access is not possible.
- Pond maintained to ensure that the perimeter does not become obscured and that the area around the pond does not deteriorate.
- Slip / tripping hazards eliminated from the surrounding area of the pond. Edges that are open for access are flat and well defined.
- Appropriate warning signs posted where applicable ('No swimming', 'deep water' etc.)

What further action is recommended to reduce risks further

- Parents are advised to ensure children do not touch any part of their face with their hands before hands are washed.
- All wounds on exposed skin are suitably covered.
- No eating in the pond area.
- Any algal scum should be removed, avoiding skin contact.

Risk Rating: | Severity: 4/5 | Likelihood: 2/5 | Risk: High

November 2026