

**Organised Visits to Capel Allotments' Wildlife Area and Allotment Site**

<b>Site:</b> The Allotments, Pound Lane, Capel St Mary	<b>Assessment By:</b> Marc Ruse (Site Visit Coordinator)	<b>Review Date:</b> 14 <sup>th</sup> April, 2026
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**Overview:** Organised local groups are welcome and encouraged to visit the allotment site in Pound Lane including the so-called "wildlife area". It's important to understand that the allotment site and wildlife area are "working areas". Members of the Allotment Association and Allotment Holders may be working on site and may be using machinery and sharp tools which visitors should avoid at all times. Visits must be arranged in advance with the Site Visit Coordinator so that we can try to ensure hazards are kept to a minimum, but it remains the responsibility of all visitors (or in the case of children, their leaders or guardians) to be aware and avoid these hazards and risks at all times.

Activity	Potential Hazards	Risk	Control Measures	Risk Level / Potential Impact (L=Low, M=Medium, H=High)
Walking around the Wildlife Area	Water Body (The Pond). Deep Water. Hidden Structures. Biological Agents. Cold Water Temperature.	Drowning. Weil's Disease or Leptospirosis. Hypothermia.	Visitors should be aware of the risks of entering water.	L/H
	Uneven Ground.	Tripping and falling	Visitors should be aware of the risks of uneven ground. In particular, children should be warned not to run "pell mell".	L/H
	Alien Bodies. Access to the wildlife area is not monitored. It's possible that previous visitors may have left dangerous items (litter, broken glass, animal faeces, undesirable paraphernalia etc).	Sickness, illness, slips. Toxoplasmosis. Ticks and Lyme disease. Weils disease/ leptospirosis.	Visitors should be alert and aware and if any such item is discovered, notify a responsible adult so that it may be removed.  Visitors to be shown handwashing facilities.	L/H

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Walking around the Wildlife Area	Plants: toxic, irritant or harmful plants (eg Nettles, bramble, thistles)	Skin irritation, minor injury.	Leaders and visitors should be aware not to touch plants unless they are comfortable that a reaction is unlikely.	L/M
	Trees: overhanging paths, thorns on saplings.	Injury: scratches, etc.	Children made aware. Trees monitored and treated appropriately.	L/M
	Trees: falling branches/trees	Injury: hit by branch/tree	Visits may need to be cancelled or participants informed if high winds and storms forecast.	L/H
	Soil:	Tetanus, Weils disease/ leptospirosis	Cuts and broken skin (including from eczema) covered to prevent infection. Adults aware of risks.	L/H
	Pond Dipping: Should be restricted to the decking area. This may become slippery. The remaining perimeter of the pond may be soft and boggy which could lead to over-balancing into the pond, or even becoming stuck in the mud.	Minor injuries. Getting wet, shock. Drowning Weils disease/ leptospirosis	Visitors are to ensure that the Adult -to- Child ratio is appropriate to age, needs and abilities of the group and conditions on day. Children should wear appropriate clothing and footwear. All participants reminded not to put fingers/hands in mouth/on face. Covering cuts and broken skin (including from eczema) and washing hands at end of activity.	L/H
	Tick Bites	Lyme Disease	Visitors are advised to wear long sleeves and trousers and should be aware of appropriate treatment.	L/H

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<p>Around the Allotment Site:</p> <p>Visitors should mainly keep to the main wide tracks and minimise using the grass paths between allotments.</p> <p>Visitors should not touch any plants, tools or structures within the individual allotments unless invited so to do.</p>	<p>In addition to all the risks outlined above, visitors should be aware of the possibility that machinery or tools may be left unattended.</p>	<p>Minor injuries, major injuries</p>	<p>Children should be supervised and kept within sight of a responsible adult at all times.</p>	<p>L/H</p>
	<p>The Allotment Site is a large area and it is possible that a child could become lost.</p>	<p>Disorientation</p>	<p>Children should be supervised and kept within sight of a responsible adult at all times.</p>	<p>L/M</p>
	<p>Polytunnels: There are two large polytunnels in which extra care should be taken.</p>	<p>This environment can get very hot and humid possibly leading to hyperthermia.</p>	<p>Children should be supervised and kept within sight of a responsible adult at all times.</p>	<p>L/M</p>
	<p>Vehicles and cyclists on shared paths.</p>	<p>Collision / Crash / Serious Injury</p>	<p>Visitors should take due care and attention</p>	<p>L/H</p>
	<p>Visitors must be wary of trip hazards and uneven and wet (due to watering) ground in both polytunnels and the main allotment site.</p>	<p>Tripping and slipping resulting in minor or major injuries.</p>	<p>It's recommended that visitors should walk carefully at all times and wear suitable footwear in all weathers and conditions.</p>	<p>L/H</p>
<p>First Aid</p>	<p>General minor accidents.</p>	<p>Limited First Aid facilities are available on-site and it is unlikely that there will be trained first-aiders in proximity.</p>	<p>Should an accident occur, visitors and children leaders should expect to provide their own First Aid. The site's First Aid Box is held within the site toilet which will be unlocked during the course of the visit.</p>	<p>L/M</p>