

Site Risk Assessment – Grimsargh Wetlands

Location: Preston Road, Grimsargh, Preston.

Nearest postcode PR2 5JS, OS Grid Ref. SD589345, What3Words location *newsstand.lunch.bucked* (Compound access point - opposite Oban Court).

Date: 02/12/2025 (Review Date: 12/2026)

Prepared/Approved by: Grimsargh Wetlands Trust



Note 1: Children on organised visits

Close supervision of children, by accompanying teachers/leaders, is expected at all times. Teachers/leaders are expected to make a pre-visit and undertake their own Risk Assessment based on their specific visit requirements and needs. Teachers and leaders should ensure they stay within the recommended ratios of adults to children for organised visits. At the start of the visit, children should be briefed by their teachers/leaders about the appropriate measures in place to control risks. Teachers should provide their own first aid kits, plus spare clothing for children if considered necessary. High visibility tabards are recommended.

Note 2: Risk level matrix

How likely?	Potential Harm		
	Slight harm	Harmful	Very harmful
Unlikely	Minor	Slight	Moderate
Likely	Slight	Moderate	Substantial
Very Likely	Moderate	Substantial	Unacceptable level of risk

Note 3: Avian Influenza

Avian influenza ('bird flu') is now effectively endemic in UK wild bird populations. The UK Health Security Agency advises that the risk to public health from the virus is very low. Visitors to the Wetlands are asked to be vigilant. Please do not touch or pick up any sick or dead birds. Dogs should be kept on their leads when walking on the public footpath. Do not feed any waterfowl. More information about avian influenza can be found at <https://www.facebook.com/APHAGov/> .

All potential risks in the following list have been assessed as Minor, Slight or Moderate.

Potential hazard	Who is affected? P* – public W – workers (volunteers, trustees, contractors)	Possible Outcome	Precautions	Risk Level (i.e. how likely X potential harm)
Uneven, soft/muddy ground (off public footpath) due to roots, brambles, stumps, exposed stonework, mud etc.	P, W	Slips, trips or falls leading to bruises, sprains, minor cuts or grazes.	Warn visitors/workers of uneven/muddy ground/steep slopes/banks. Stress careful foot placement.	Likely x slight = SLIGHT
Thorny bushes (e.g. blackthorn, hawthorn, brambles) along public/concessionary footpaths and in work areas.	P, W	Cuts and grazes, puncture wounds, eye damage.	Trim bushes along paths as necessary. Advise safety glasses/work gloves if working in thorny area.	Likely x harmful = MODERATE
Public/permissive footpaths on site.	P, W	Injury to passer by from work taking place on site.	Warn workers of risk before starting work on site and put up suitable signs when work is being done.	Unlikely x harmful = SLIGHT
Dead branches in trees. Dead standing trees at risk of falling down.	P, W	Head and other injuries, cuts and bruises.	Undertake annual tree safety assessment. Check any work areas for potentially dangerous trees before starting work. Work not to be carried out in high/potentially damaging winds.	Unlikely x harmful = SLIGHT
Irritable or poisonous plants (e.g. nettles, fern/bracken, fungi, berry-bearing plants).	P, W	Allergic responses (nettles), carcinogenic spores (ferns/bracken), poisoning (fungi/berries) from ingestion.	Do not work in fern/bracken-rich areas (June - September). Do not eat fungi, berries or other plant material. Wash hands after handling such	Unlikely x harmful = SLIGHT

Potential hazard	Who is affected? P* – public W – workers (volunteers, trustees, contractors)	Possible Outcome	Precautions	Risk Level (i.e. how likely X potential harm)
			material.	
Stings from bees, wasps or hornets. Allergens (pollen/spores).	P, W	Allergic reactions.	Be aware of any nests - do not get too close. Workers should declare any known allergic responses before starting work on site and should bring their own medications (e.g. anti- histamine cream etc. with them).	Unlikely x harmful = SLIGHT
Steps/ramps	P, W	Slips leading to sprains or bruises.	Ensure steps are well maintained and free of additional trip hazards. Warn of ice hazards or close steps/ramps in particularly icy conditions.	Unlikely x slight harm = MINOR
Horseflies/Ticks.	P, W	Infected bites (at worst Lyme's Disease).	Long Trousers and sleeves should be worn while working on site. If in doubt about infected bites, visit GP. Advise groups.	Unlikely x harmful = SLIGHT
Barbed wire is present along some fencing/screening.	P, W	Scratches or entanglement.	Ensure fences/screens are in good condition.	Unlikely x slight harm = MINOR
There are a number of seasonal and permanent areas of water on site. Both the 'Mere' and the 'Island Lake' are significant bodies of water with significant depth, silty bottoms and overgrown, tangled edges. In addition there are a number of small wildlife ponds on the 'Fen'.	P, W	Tripping into water, possible Drowning. Risk of Weils' disease.	Do not work near/in/on water alone.	Unlikely x harmful = SLIGHT

Potential hazard	Who is affected? P* – public W – workers (volunteers, trustees, contractors)	Possible Outcome	Precautions	Risk Level (i.e. how likely X potential harm)
Use of tools/machinery at work/volunteer sessions.	W	Cuts and bruises and other, potentially serious, injuries.	Volunteers will be instructed in the appropriate use of hand tools and the necessary safety equipment (personal protective equipment ‘PPE’) before starting work. Only competent, trained individuals are able to use powered tools/machinery (strimmers, brush cutters etc.) Fuel for petrol-driven machinery must be stored in appropriate containers. A qualified first-aider to be on site during work sessions. First-aid kits available on site.	Unlikely x harmful = SLIGHT
Use of boat	W	Entering the water, hidden hazards (deep water, thick beds of silt and mud, submerged branches and other obstacles). Risk of drowning.	Anyone using the boat must wear a life jacket (available on site). When working from the boat, at least one other person must be present on the bank at all times.	Unlikely x harmful = SLIGHT

P* - public refers to members of the public who only use the public/concessionary footpaths on the site and/or those who attend organised/supervised events/work sessions that involve visiting areas of the site normally out of bounds to members of the public.

Note 3: Work arising from above risk assessment

Work	By whom
Carry out tree safety assessments	Trustees
Trim bushes along paths as necessary.	Trustees
Ensure safety notices are posted before maintenance work is started. Highlight/close icy steps/ramps.	Trustees
Ensure volunteers receive appropriate instructions about the use of tools, PPE etc. at the start of work sessions.	Trustees

Grimsargh Wetlands Trust telephone (voicemail only): 0730 0052957

Nearest Emergency Department: Royal Preston Hospital, Sharoe Green Lane North, Fulwood, Preston, Lancashire, PR2 9HT.

Nearest Public Access Defibrillator: Grimsargh Village Hall, Preston Road, Grimsargh, Preston, PR2 5JS.

Access point/route for emergency services from road: ● Compound access point (opposite Oban Court, Preston Road).

