

Risk Assessment for Recreation Ground Attenuation Pond

The attenuation pond was dug in 2020 to provide a reservoir for water from the Mepal recreational field to drain to via the field drains in place in the field. The pond is not designed for any other purpose such as fishing swimming or other water sports. This risk assessment has been written based on the current state of the attenuation pond surrounding area.

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<p>Factors Proximity to populated areas: schools; inns; retail/tourism; picnic area; play area; car park; roads; especially attractive features</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Located in corner of Village recreational field formally used to support Mepal football academy with 1 senior and 2 junior pitches and a pavilion. • In close proximity to a basket ball hoop. • Children's play area and equipment in self contained space located adjacent to the attenuation pond separated by a substantial hedge and tree line. • No pedestrian footway to or around the attenuation pond
<p>Behavioural Factors Category and volume of expected users: swimmers; anglers; walkers; drivers; specialist water users; general public; unaccompanied children</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The attenuation pond is not for the any form of water sports and is purely to provide a reservoir for water to drain to from the recreational field. • The recreational field is currently only used by villagers to exercise but there is a vision to start playing regular football on the field.
<p>Ease of Access to Water Edge Open unrestricted access; type and nature of paths; natural obstacles; vegetation; existing barriers/fencing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a temporary security fence on one side of the attenuation pond that has a boundary to the recreational field. • Two other sides are protected by a hedge that separates the recreation area from surrounding farm land. • The final side is separated from the play area by a substantial hedge and tree line.
<p>Type of Edge Condition of edge: stable; unstable; nature of ground at edge; height above water; gradient of bank; features allowing or encouraging access to water</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The edge of the pond is well defined. • The edges of the pond are newly seeded grass that is beginning to grow. • There is a very slight rise in the ground up to the edge of the pond. • The pond has only just been dug and with recent rain the ground around it is soft however it is

	<p>expected that over time this will settle and compact to form a firm edge.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The edge of the pond is protected on all sides by either a fence or substantial hedge. • The bank is a steep gradient down to the water level. • The water level is approximately 3 feet from the top of the bank depending on the time of year and amount of rain fall.
<p>The Water Temperature; underwater gradient up to about 3.75 m from edge; max depth of water; currents; clarity; underwater obstacles or traps; tide; features, e.g. weir, lock; blue green algae</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The pond is relatively small and so water temperature is likely to be typical of that of a small pond. • The pond has been designed to be 6ft deep during a storm surge and then settle to 4ft deep. It is expected to dry out in the summer but as the pond has not been in existence for a full year this is yet to be proven. • There are no underwater obstacles or traps. • There is currently no vegetation growing in the pond. • The water is generally fairly muddy due to it being a drained from the recreational field.
<p>Existing Rescue Equipment, Signs etc.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No rescue equipment at present. • Currently there is a temporary sign warning of a construction site and to keep out.
<p>Known Accident History</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The pond has only been dug in the last year and there have been no accidents.
<p>Risk Level (see matrix)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Probability of Accidents – Highly Unlikely • Severity of Outcome – Harmful • Tolerable Risk

Risk Assessment Matrix

Probability of Accidents	Severity of Outcome		
	Slightly harmful (Low)	Harmful (Medium)	Extremely harmful (High)
Highly unlikely (Low)	Trivial Risk	Tolerable Risk	Moderate Risk
Unlikely but foreseeable (Medium)	Tolerable Risk	Moderate Risk	Substantial Risk
Likely (High)	Moderate Risk	Substantial Risk	Intolerable Risk

Risks and Actions

RISK LEVEL	ACTION AND TIMESCALE
Trivial	No action required.
Tolerable	No additional controls are required. Consideration may be given to a more effective solution or improvement.
Moderate	Efforts should be made to reduce the risk. Risk reduction measures should be implemented within a defined time period. Where the moderate risk is associated with harmful/serious consequences further assessment may be necessary to establish more precisely the likelihood of harm as a basis for determining the need for improved control measures.
Substantial	The activity should not be started until the risk has been reduced. Considerable resources may have to be allocated to reduce the risk. Where the risk involves activity already in progress, urgent action should be taken.
Intolerable	Activity should not be started or continued until the risk has been reduced. If it is not possible to reduce risk even with unlimited resources, activity has to remain prohibited.

Recommendation/Action

R1 - Should a person fall into the attenuation pond, after negotiating the perimeter fence, the steep gradient of the sides and depth of the water (particularly in winter) it could prove difficult for the person to extract themselves from the attenuation pond. Consideration should be made for the provision of emergency rescue equipment this may include 'reach-pole', 'throw-line' or 'life-buoy'.

R2 – Once the contractors are happy with the work around the pond and therefore remove their temporary security fencing a suitable barrier should be constructed in its place to keep people away from the pond and therefore getting too close and falling in. This should be arranged such that the barrier is erected before the temporary fencing is removed. Consideration should be made when choosing a suitable barrier to the possibility of loose balls from the basket ball court travelling towards the attenuation pond.

R3 - There should also be suitable signage to warn of the hazards.