

PUDDLETOWN AREA PARISH COUNCIL

The Coombe

Location: The Coombe (New Street) (What3Words ///eager.decently.doing to ///buffoon.instilled.agency)

Date of Assessment: 20th October 2024

Assessed by: Michelle Harrington – Proper Officer

Next Review Date: 20th October 2026

Presented To: Full Council (November 2025)

1. Purpose

This assessment identifies potential hazards and control measures related to the Coombe. It aims to ensure the safety of all personnel and the protection of the environment and public.

2. Description of Asset.

This risk assessment identifies hazards related to the physical environment, vegetation, slope stability, and ongoing maintenance activities at The Coombe, and outlines controls to reduce risks to staff, contractors, and the public.

3. Risk Rating System

Likelihood	Description	Severity	Description	Risk Rating
1	Rare	1	Insignificant (no injury)	1–4 = Low
2	Unlikely	2	Minor injury	5–9 = Medium
3	Possible	3	Moderate injury	10–16 = High
4	Likely	4	Major injury	17–25 = Critical
5	Almost Certain	5	Fatality	

Risk Score = Likelihood × Severity

4. Risk Assessment Table

Hazard	Who May Be Harmed	Initial Risk L×S	Existing Controls	Further Controls / Actions Required	Residual Risk
Slope instability or bank collapse especially after heavy rainfall	Public, maintenance staff, road users	3×5=15 High	Stabilisation works completed; visual inspections. Ongoing geotechnical monitoring; review after major storms. Minimise disturbance to root systems and banks to maintain slope integrity		2×4=8 Med
Falling trees or branches	Road users, pedestrians, maintenance staff	3×4=12 High	Regular arboricultural inspections; removal of dead/diseased trees. Inspect area after a storm. Maintain tree register		2×3=6 Med
Loose debris or vegetation falling onto road	Road users	3×3=9 Med	Regular vegetation cutbacks; roadside clearance. Dispose of vegetation and soil in accordance with waste management regulations		2×2=4 Low

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Hazard	Who May Be Harmed	Initial Risk LxS	Existing Controls	Further Controls / Actions Required	Residual Risk
Slips, trips, and falls on steep banks during maintenance	Parish council staff, contractors	2x3=6 Med	Qualified contractor used. Use of harnesses, ropes, and safe working practices; supervision		2x3=6 Med
Traffic hazards during maintenance or inspections	Workers, public	3x4=12 High	Traffic management cones, signage; high-visibility clothing. Apply Dorset Council road closure procedure where required		2x3=6 Med
Working near the road edge on steep slopes	Parish council staff / contractors	3x4=12 High	Safe system of work; bankside barriers in place. Qualified contractor used. Use secondary barriers or rope systems for steeper areas		2x3=6 Med
Wildlife hazards wasp nests, ticks, snakes	Workers, public	2x3=6 Med	Qualified contractor used where necessary. PPE gloves, boots; awareness training. Avoid vegetation clearance during bird nesting season (March–August) unless safety-critical		2x3=6 Med

5. Emergency Procedures

- **Slope failure or tree fall:** Stop work immediately, clear area, contact Dorset Council Highways.
- **Injury or accident:** Call emergency services (999) and notify supervisor.
- **Road obstruction:** Close or restrict access using cones/signage; inform Highways Duty Officer.
- **Severe weather event:** Cease work and re-inspect before recommencing.

6. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) / Safety

Task	PPE Required
General site work / inspection	Hi-vis vest/jacket, safety boots, gloves
Vegetation management	Safety goggles, gloves, ear protection, chainsaw PPE if applicable
Working on slopes	Safety harness, rope system, helmet
Roadside work	Hi-vis clothing, signage, cones, communication device
Adverse weather	Waterproof clothing, thermal PPE as needed

8. Review & Monitoring

- Review risk assessment annually and after severe weather.

Overall Residual Risk: Medium (with all controls in place)