

CHARNEY HALL & FIELD TRUST (CHAFT).
MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE 7th JUNE 2023
REPORT OF FIELD SUBCOMMITTEE

CHARNEY FIELD: RISK ASSESSMENT CHARNEY WICK DITCH.

BACKGROUND.

1. This risk assessment relates to that part of Charney Wick Ditch (CWD) included in the parcel of land known as Charney Field. It is an assessment of what might cause harm to users of Charney Field and whether sufficient preventative measures are in place,
2. The ditch runs from Main Street in a westerly direction along the Bridle Path until it meets bridleway 158/5 and footpath 158/2 (entrance to the field past Debar) and then along the southern edge of the field. It is one of three watercourses flowing east west through the village and is classified as a main river by the Environment Agency. It is normally a shallow stream (other than when abnormal weather has occurred) and a draft maintenance plan envisages gaps in the vegetation to assist visibility from the Bridle Path and bridleway.
3. CHAFT (as a riparian owner) has part responsibility for the ditch
 - Oxfordshire County Council is responsible for the culvert under Main Street
 - Owners of properties 4 and 5 Barnfield have riparian responsibility for the ditch at the rear of their premises.
 - CHAFT and the owners of Bridle Cottage and Bridle Farm Cottage have shared responsibility to the midpoint of the ditch. .
4. In undertaking the assessment regard has been had to CHAFT'S
 - safety policy for the whole of Charney Field.
 - draft maintenance plan for CWD which has been approved by the Environment Agency
 - on site meeting with the Environment Agency and their oral advice that in the context of the watercourse and its rural environment additional security/ safety measures are not needed.

THE ASSESSMENT.

5. The assessment team identified the following potential hazards if users of Charney Field veer off the well-kept Bridle Path and bridleway in the direction of the watercourse
 - trip hazards,
 - slipping/falling down the banks,
 - entering the ditch, particularly if there is a higher than normal water level due to inclement weather
 - contact with vegetation

- insects

6. Having regard to the location and flow of the ditch the assessment team concluded additional control measures are not needed. This assumes CHAFT fulfils its riparian responsibilities as set out in the draft maintenance plan, complies with the relevant requirements of the approved safety policy for Charney Field and reviews both documents on a regular basis.

REFERENCE DOCUMENTS

Draft Maintenance Plan for Charney Wick Ditch

Approved Safety Policy for Charney Field.

END 27/05/23

Report of ND, LG and DS