



Pucklechurch Allotment Inspection Report 2023

**Completed by:
Andy Hemmings**

13th January 2023

Inspection 2023

This was a simple inspection of the allotments and connecting facilities. I intended to look at abandoned or neglected plots, access / egress routes, overgrowing weeds / bushes / trees, health and safety aspects including dangerous chemicals, deep water containers and damage. An emphasis was placed on litter and recycling plus misuse / abuse of all areas

Abandoned / Neglected Plots

Generally, the site is appearing a lot better than the previous inspection and there is no clear evidence of any abandoned or neglected plots.

As it is close to the New Year and the weather has been poor, it is understandable that several plots had not been tended to and were in need of some attention.



The new split plots were particularly looking in decent shape and it was nice to see several people around the site whilst I was walking around.

Access / Egress Routes

The entrance gate was open when I arrived and tied back, no vehicles were causing a disruption or obstruction either around the site or on the main road.

The gate is in good order and the padlock was present.



I did notice that it was possible to enter the area at the back of the allotments through a gap in the hedges. This route is seemingly used regularly as the area is well trampled and the bushes removed enough to pass comfortably through. (I did not get an image of this area).



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Overgrowing Weeds / Bushes / Trees

A lot of weeds were evident as to be expected around the site, but this was predominantly on the individual plots rather than the main site areas. Due to the time of year, it was difficult to determine if trees were causing a problem. The trees at the back of the site (orchard) were still small and not causing an issue, but the trees to the top (adjacent to the woodlands) have the potential to cause an issue once back in full bloom. I will revisit these in the spring.



Health and Safety

For this I looked at various aspects including slip / trips and falls, any potential hazards, any high-risk elements i.e., chemicals, asbestos, waste and sewage, open water butts. I looked for areas where brambles may cause a problem, low hanging branches, damage to fences, posts, and gates.

There was no clear problem in any of these areas although I identified some rusting old containers and minor damage on a couple of plots although nothing of any high-risk or requiring immediate action.



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Litter and Other observations

Litter is clearly an issue. It appears that people are using an area of the original orchard as a communal space. There is a substantial amount of discarded tins of alcohol and other debris which needs clearing.



There is also a lot of plastic rubbish in the bushes and surrounding area which needs clearing.



| HAZARD | GOOD | POOR | REQUIRES IMPROVEMENT |
|-----------------------------|------|------|----------------------|
| Access / Egress | ✓ | | |
| Abandoned / Neglected Plots | ✓ | | |
| Vegetation | | | ✓ |
| Health and Safety | ✓ | | |
| Litter | | ✓ | |
| Other Hazards | ✓ | | |

Conclusion

A particularly good visit with no major concerns or issues highlighted. Improvement needed around some of the vegetation in the old orchard area and to determine if the gap in the hedge is allowing unwanted visitors onto the site.

Litter is poor around communal areas and requires immediate resolution to prevent pest issues, particularly rats.

A further visit is necessary to review the trees when they are in blossom or bloom.

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|--------------------|---|
| Completed by | Cllr Andy Hemmings |
| Signed |  |
| Date of Inspection | 13 th Jan 2023 |