

Whittlebury Park Golf Club Course Risk Assessment

General Information

1. Introduction

This assessment addresses issues appertaining to the twenty seven hole golf course and the nine hole par three golf course only and does not consider any risks which may be present in or around the Clubhouse, Driving Range and Green's Keepers compound. Risks associated with Green's Keepers work duties are not considered within this assessment.

2. General Course Topography

The 600 acre site containing 4 (four) Nine Hole golf courses is owned by Whittlebury Hall and Spa Limited, and is commonly known as Whittlebury Park Golf Club. The four course names are as follows:

- 1905 course or Yellows
- Royal Whittlewood course or Reds
- Grand Prix course or Blues
- Wedgewood course or Whites

The club is bounded to the East by the A413 trunk road and on all other boundaries by farm and woodland. A public footpath runs along the right hand side of the 8th Hole on the Wedgewood Course. This public footpath is used frequently by members of the public to gain access to Silverstone race course on special event days.

There are a number of ponds and lakes some of which play an integral part to some of the holes. Ponds integral to the 36 hole course can be found on Yellow 2, Red 1, 2, 5, 6 and 8 Blue 2, 3, 4 and 6 and on White 4 & 5. The majority of these are linked running from North to South. The depth of these ponds varies from 2M deep to 6M deep. The majority of the course is flat with the exception of Red 5, 6, 7, and 8 and Blue 4 & 6. The White par 3 Wedgewood course has one water feature at White 4/5 but is mainly flat but contains several short steep mounds.

3. Public Access

There are no public footpaths on the course.

4. Staff Working on the Course

At all times staff working on the course have priority and no golf shots to be played if the staff are within range.

5. Use of Trolleys, Electric Trolleys and Motorised Buggies

Whittlebury Park Golf Club Course Maintenance Policy Document states "Use of Trolleys, Electric Trolleys or motorised Buggies –This will be the responsibility of the Course Manager or his representative, who

will check daily the course condition and a sign will be displayed outside the Professional shop and on the clubhouse notice board advising the membership of any restrictions imposed." The Course Manager, or in his absence, his Deputy are aware of this obligation.

Each buggy driver should be asked to read a list of buggy use instructions before being allowed to drive on the course. The driver will sign a record book held in the Caddy Masters shop indicating they have read and understood **the** instructions. Any member or visitor who intends to use their personally owned buggy must be required to go through a similar procedure.

Buggies owned & operated by members must provide a copy of an insurance certificate providing 3rd party public liability each year when renewing their membership. This copy will be retained in the administration office.

Any visitor bringing their own buggy must provide a copy of an insurance certificate providing 3rd party public liability before use of the buggy on the course is allowed. This copy will be retained in the administration office.

All buggy drivers must be over the age of 17 years.

6. Reduced Visibility Weather Conditions

When foggy conditions prevail, the Course Manager or his Duty Deputy will stand on Yellow 1 and if the pathway in front is not in view he will place a sign advising the membership that the course is closed. This will be reviewed over the next couple of hours by the club manager or his deputy. When the fog clears to an acceptable distance, as previously stated, the course closed signs will be removed by the Course manager or his deputy and the course will be open for play.

7. Lightning Policy

In event of lightening or threat of lightening the course will be closed by course manager or his deputy. The Air raid siren will be sounded once for the closure of the course. A sweep of the course will take place and all players will be told that they must immediately vacate the course; it is not an option to continue at your own risk.

Where there is not sufficient time to evacuate the course and there is a threat of lightning, you are advised to comply with the following procedure:-

- Keep as low down as possible, seeking refuge in the nearest bunker or hollow.
- Leave your golf equipment and stand away from it.
- DO NOT shelter under trees or go to high ground.
- Don't you use a mobile phone (switch it off).
- Don't put your umbrella up in any circumstances.
- Don't stand near a stream or pond.

Courses may be re-opened by course manager or his deputy by the sounding of the air raid siren 3 times, once the risk of lightening has passed.

8. Paths

Where paths are available on the course all golfers, whether walking, using a trolley or buggy must use them.

9. Painted White Lines or G.U.R. (Ground Under Repair)

These are temporary white painted lines placed at various locations on the course. They are painted to ensure the safety of all golfers and to assist the Green keepers to maintain vulnerable parts of the course. Under no circumstances must golfers with trolleys or buggies cross these lines.

10. Permanent White Lines (PWL)

These are permanently laid white plastic lines placed at various locations on the course indicating Danger / hazard to all golfers. Under no circumstances must trolleys or buggies cross these lines. In addition extra care should be taken by golfer carrying their bags and it is recommended these golfers do not cross these lines.

11. Footwear

All golfers (members & visitors) must ensure they have golf shoes which are adequate & suitable for the ground/weather conditions on the day of play.

12. Players Insurance

All golfers (Members & Visitors) are advised to take out adequate 3rd party insurance to provide cover for liability at law for damages payable in respect of:

- Death or bodily injury.
- Loss of damage to material property.

13. Safety Notices

Playing golf on uneven terrain & changeable ground conditions carries inevitable risks.

You play this golf course having been made aware that a full risk assessment has been conducted, is available to be read on the;

- Club Website,
- in the General Office,
- Pro-Shop and
- Men's Locker Room
- Ladies Locker Room

Please take the time to familiarise yourself with its content.

Additionally, for your safety & for the protection of the course, please ensure buggies & trolleys are kept outside white lined areas at all times.

Whilst we want you to enjoy your round, Whittlebury Park Golf Club accepts no liability for any accident or damage caused by not following the safety notices & guidelines whilst playing on our courses. Thank you for your understanding on this matter.

14. Responsibilities

The Health & Safety Officer is responsible for maintaining this Risk Assessment.

15. Overview of Risk Assessment Definitions

The risk assessment will address the following:

- Generic risks whilst playing golf
- Risks while carrying clubs and using motorised and pull trolleys in dry and wet conditions
- General Hazards by Courses

When defining the location of a risk by reference to a particular hole this is ascertained by looking from the Tee to Green.

Abbreviations

PWL – Permanent white line

R – Right

L – Left

16. Publication of Risk Assessment

A copy of this full risk assessment is available in the following locations:-

- Club Website
- General Office
- Caddy Masters Shop
- Men's Changing rooms
- Ladies' Changing rooms

17. Generic Risks while playing golf.

Risk Description	Grade of Risk	Solution/Recommendation
Being Struck by a golf ball hit offline by a golfer playing on another part of the golf Course	High	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. All players must remain alert at all times to the behaviour of nearby players.2. Players who have played an offline shot must immediately shout 'Fore' to alert all surrounding players that the shot has been struck.
Being Struck by a golf ball hit by a playing partner	High	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Non playing partner(s) must not advance in front of the shot being played.2. Players who have played a shot towards a playing partner(s) must immediately shout 'Fore' to alert all surrounding players that the shot has been struck.

Being Struck by a golf ball played by a golfer in the following group	Medium	Following golfers must ensure that those in front have advanced further than they can hit their best shot.
Being struck by the swinging club of a playing partner	Medium	Players must stand at least 2 metres away from the arc of the swinging club
Tripping on uneven, sloping or slippery ground	Medium	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Obvious tripping hazards should be removed by fellow golfers and green keeping staff. 2. Sloping areas which become wet and are lacking in thick grass cover should be roped off by green keeping staff to prevent entry by players. 3. Extra care should be taken by all golfers
Tripping over a fellow golfers' playing equipment, trolley or motorised buggy.	Low	Care should be taken by all golfers on the course.
Most of the bunkers on the 27 hole course are surrounded by steeply sloping sides. These slopes when wet are particularly Slippery.	High	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. When entering/exiting bunkers to play/after playing a shot, entry and exit should be from the shallowest edge of the bunker. 2. Trolleys (whether motorised or not) and motorised buggies must not be taken within 5 m of any of these slopes in dry or wet conditions.
Many of the teeing areas are surrounded by steep or medium sloping ground.	Medium High	Trolleys & Motorised buggies are not to be taken onto these slopes in dry or wet conditions.
Throughout the courses there are steep and medium slopes which must be treated with care particularly during wet conditions. Specific slopes are dealt with as part of the hole by hole assessment	Medium High	All golfers should ensure they have golf shoes which are adequate and suitable for the ground/weather conditions on the day of play.
Ponds/Lakes: There are several ponds on the course. These are mentioned in the hole by hole risk assessment.	High	All players should not walk inside the line of the hazard posts. If entering the sloping area at the pond edge (only on foot and without trolleys) then extreme caution/care must be taken not to slip into the water. A warning notice of deep water to be placed in a clear visible location at the pond edge. All trolleys/buggies must be left at least 3 metres from the pond.

18. Using Motorised Buggies in Wet Conditions

If the course manager considers that the use of motorised buggies on wet ground is likely to endanger drivers, passengers, and other players then he will inform the staff in the Caddy Masters that motorised buggies must not be rented out to members and visitors until further notice is given. The course Manager will also post notices in the clubhouse and in the locker rooms which will inform any golfer intending to use a motorised buggy that use on the particular day is forbidden. If the Course manager is absent from work then his responsibilities will pass to his deputy.

Risk – High from buggies skidding uncontrollably or overturning, causing injury to drivers, passengers and walking players.

Solution – Banning the use until conditions are suitable.

19. General Hazards by Courses.

This information identifies the main hazards that members and visitors may encounter while practising or walking the course. It does not contain a definitive list of hazards, adverse weather, human and animal activity can create new hazards. It is impossible to eliminate risk entirely but the reading of this information will help reduce the risk to yourself and others. The course may be closed by management if and when it deems necessary to reduce the risk to members and others.

It is your responsibility to ensure that you adhere strictly to the following

- 1) Be aware and adopt golfing etiquette by not playing a shot when others are in range, if a mistake is made in judgement of distance or direction shout “**FORE**”!
- 2) Be aware of the behaviour and location of other golfers and member of the public. Be aware of your fellow competitors or partner, do not walk in front of them as they play a shot or stand too close to the back swing.
- 3) Be aware of green keeper activity; give them time to move to safety before playing you shot, if they have not noticed you attract their attention as best you can.
- 4) Most holes will have a certain degree of risk regarding ball contact with others with a badly miss hit shot, many of our holes run parallel. If unsure where your ball is going to land but you feel some may be at risk shout a precautionary “**FORE**”. Extra caution should be given when playing the following holes:-

1905 or Yellow Course

- **Holes 1 and 2** have the access drive to the left of play which can be occupied by motor vehicles, pedestrians and horses. Halfway down the left-hand side of the hole we have a pumping station which often has staff working there.
- **Hole 3** has the 6th Yellow tee in range.
- **Hole 4** has Hole 5 fairway in range if the shot is pulled to the left.
- **Hole 5** has Hole 4 fairway in range if the shot is pulled to the left. Hole 5 also has Red fairway in range if the shot is pushed to the right.

Note! Service road cuts across Yellow 1, 8, and 9 which can mean additional green keeper activity or trespassing members of the public.

Royal Whittlewood or Red Course

Note! When playing Hole 1, Hole 9 is Out of Bounds.

- **Hole 4** has Yellow 4 green in range from the tee.
- **Hole 6** shot to the green from the right can be blind.
- **Hole 7** off the tee to the right of the fairway is blind.
- **Hole 9** off the tee, especially from the competition tee, Red 1 green and Red 2 tee are in range when the ball is hit right.

Grand Prix or Blue Course

- **Hole 1** has White 1 tee and Blue 8 tee in range, the second shot to the green when pushed right lands on White 1.
- **Hole 3** off the tee has Blue 6 green and Blue 7 tee in range when the ball is hit right.
- **Hole 9** is a dog leg so give time for the green to clear, and listen for the bell.

Wedgewood or White Course

- **Hole 1** has White 9 green in range when the ball is hit to the right. If the ball is over hit and pushed to the left Blue 1 green will be in range.
- **Hole 2** has White 3 green and the 4th tee are blind and in range if the ball is hit left of the tee.
- **Hole 3** has White 6 tee in range to the right of the tee.
- **Hole 4** has White 5 green and the 6th tee in range to the right of the tee.
- **Hole 5** has White 4 green in range if the ball is hit to the right.
- **Hole 6** has White 3 tee in range if the ball is hit to the right.
- **Hole 7**, White 2 green and the 3rd tee can be blind and in range.
- **Hole 8** has a public footpath to the left of the fairway.
- **Hole 9** has a public footpath to the left of the hole, and White 1 green is in range if a ball is hit to the right.

Ponds, Lakes & Ditches

Treat all banks and edges of ponds, lakes and ditches as potentially wet and slippery, proceed with caution. Motorised buggies and electric carts should be kept clear of these hazards and kept at least 5-10 Metres away from the edge. Treat all ponds and lakes as deep water and never walk across them when they are frozen.

Do not attempt to retrieve balls from the lakes/ponds especially in wet conditions. Be aware of the location of lifebelts situated around the ponds.

Hazards associated with Ponds, Lakes & Ditches

Yellow 2 has a pond and ditch to the left of the hole and a large open ditch to the right.

Yellow 7 has a pond in front and to the right of the tee with a ditch leading to a lake to the left of the tee. There is also a lake to the left of the fairway with a ditch behind the green on the right.

Yellow 8 has a ditch in front of the tee with another ditch in the rough behind the green.

Red 1 has a lake in front of the green, with lakes either side of the path approaching the fairway.

Red 2 has a lake to the left of the fairway; there is a ditch to cross before reaching the green as well as another lake to the left of the green.

Red 5 has a lake in front of the green which is fed by a flowing ditch to the right; there is also a ditch on the left of the path to the green.

Red 6 has a lake on the left of the fairway with a large ditch on the right before the climb to the green.

Red 7 has large ditches to the left and the right of the tee.

Red 8 has a lake in front of the green and a deep ditch to the right of the path leading to the green. The small path on the left hand side of the lake crosses a stream which feeds the lake.

Red 9 has a ditch to the left just before the fairway as well as a lake to the right of the fairway.

Blue 2 has a lake on the right of the hole.

Blue 3 has a wetland area to the left of the fairway, there is a ditch that crosses the hole and is deep on the right hand side.

Blue 4 has big open ditches to the left and the right of the fairway from the tee, there is also a pond in front of the green with ditches to the left and the right.

Blue 6 has a big open ditch in front of the green.

Blue 7 has a ditch that runs along the length of the hole crossing in front of the green.

Blue 8 has a wetland area to the right of the fairway with a ditch that crosses the width of the hole around the halfway point.

Blue 9 has a ditch to the far left of the hole.

White 4 has a ditch on the left of the hole which runs to a lake to the rear left of the green.

White 5 when walking to the tee you cross two bridges with water to the left and the right. Off the tee the lake is in front to the right as you play the hole.

White 7 has a shallow ditch running part way to the left of the hole.

White 8 has a ditch running the length of the hole on the left hand side.

Hazards associated with Slopes & Banks

- Only wear correct golfing footwear should be worn on the course.
- Caution should be taken when going up or down steep inclines, especially when using golf buggies and or trolleys. When conditions are difficult under foot, consider:
- Do you need to take the route you are taking?
- Is it necessary to take your trolley or golf buggy up the slope to play your shot?
- Avoid hard breaking especially when there are ditches, ponds or lakes in front of you.
- Enter and exit bunkers from the lowest point (remember to rake the bunker after you).

Hazards associated with Trees

Branches we consider to be dangerous are removed when conditions allow, unfortunately branches can fall unexpectedly due to disease, decay, and wind or leaf weight. During windy weather we advise keeping your contact with trees to a minimum.

Hazards associated with Animal Damage

Please be aware that animals are often busy creating holes and mounds that can cause sprained ankles or worse.

Hazards associated with Oral Contact

Avoid oral contact with anything that comes into contact with the course, especially when “Caution Spraying” signs are out. Fertilisers, chemicals, and animal/human waste can be found on the course.

Hazards associated with Dead Animals

Please avoid contact with dead wildlife on the course. Please report any such findings to a member of staff who will deal with it accordingly.

Hazards associated with Adverse Weather

You are advised to take additional care when moving around the course in wet, cold, icy or windy weather. During hot weather stay hydrated (bottled drinks are available from the Atrium bar), wear a hat and use sun cream. During most adverse weather conditions it is left to the player to make the decision to continue playing, players must accept responsibility for their safety. We would advise leaving the course to help protect both yourself and the course.

If you hear the horn, your MUST leave the course, this is for your own safety.

Practising

This is strictly limited to the designated practice areas within the club.

These areas are;

- the Driving Range (strictly no access onto the range and no trying to hit the Practice Green from the Atrium mats and visa versa)
- Atrium Practice Green (strictly no chipping)
- Practice from the driving range should be confined to the driving range only.
- Old Practice Green (strictly no play to green from beyond bunker and Box hedge)
- Turf Practice Tees (short irons only should be used and there should be strictly no playing to Practice Green or White Course from these tees)
- Please be aware that while using the designated practice area, balls hit from the driving range may still break through the safety netting.

Please repair pitch marks and rake bunkers after use.

Accidents, Noticed Dangers and Hazards

Please report accidents to the Caddy Master Shop or Reception where a First Aid Kit can be located. If anything dangerous is noticed, such as an unsafe branch, rabbit hole, wasp nest, missing lifebelt, etc. these should also be reported as soon as possible.

Environmental Policy

Whittlebury Park Golf Club recognises its responsibility to respect the environment and strives to achieve environmental best practice throughout its business activity without compromising the comfort, standards and enjoyment of our members and guests.

We believe that everyone has a duty of care for the environment and to seek ways to conserve natural resources. We are conscious of environmental issues and we believe that the pursuit of economic growth can be linked to ecological protection. This is a collective issue which is the responsibility of government, business and the community at large.