Sibford Gower Parish Council

Churchyard and Burial Ground Risk Assessment

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Hazard	Potential Harm	Persons at Risk	Risk Level (H, M, L)	Control Measures & Actions
Headstones & Memorials **• Unstable, loose, or leaning memorials** **• Tripping on kerbstones**	Toppling causing crushing/impact injuries; trips and falls	Visitors, contractors, council staff	Medium / Low	6 monthly visual checks, and stability (hand/topple) tests every 4 years. • Require stonemasons to work to NAMM or BRAMM standards. • Cordon off, stake, or lay flat dangerous memorials immediately.
Trees & Overhanging Branches **• Dead wood, low branches, falling limbs**	Eye injuries, cuts, or impact from falling branches	Visitors, contractors, council staff	Low	• Tree safety surveys by a qualified arboriculturalist every 4 years. • Routine cutting back of low-hanging branches above pathways. • Clear schedule of works in response to the qualified arboriculturalist report and recommendations
Ground Conditions **• Uneven ground, mole/rabbit holes, wet/soggy turf**	Slips, trips, sprains, or ankle injuries	Visitors, contractors, council staff	Low	• Warning signs at main entrances regarding uneven ground. • Periodic filling in of rabbit/subsidence holes during routine checks.
Grass Cutting & Maintenance **• Use of mowers, strimmers, flying debris**	Cuts, impact from stones/debris thrown by machinery	Visitors, contractors, council staff	Medium	• Contractors must hold valid £10m Public Liability Insurance. • Use of appropriate PPE (eye/ear protection, stout boots). • Clear area of loose debris before mowing; keep public at a safe distance.
Excavation & Grave Digging	Falls into open grave; trench collapse	Grave diggers, visitors, contractors, council staff	Medium	• Use competent/experienced contractors.

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• Open grave trench **• Spoil placement / shoring**				• Proper shoring of deep graves as required. • Cordon off or cover open graves left unattended during services/prep.
Boundary Walls & Fences **• Damaged stone walls, rotting timber, rusting metal fences**	Cuts, scratches, or structural collapse onto paths/roads	Visitors, contractors, council staff, adjacent property users	Low	• Visual inspections during routine maintenance. • Remove hazardous materials like where public access is close.
Lone Working **• Clerk, or contractors working on-site alone**	Unattended accident, medical emergency, or intimidation	Parish Clerk, contractors	Low	• Ensure mobile phone is carried and charged. • Inform a family member, or a councillor of working schedule and location.

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