

POWFOOT GOLF CLUB
COURSE RISK ASSESSMENT

CONTACT INFORMATION:

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Next Assessment: This risk assessment will be reviewed annually or following a reported incident which identifies a new risk or change to an existing risk.

Document Control

Version	Date	By Whom	Reason
Initial draft	July 2025	G. McQuiston	Initial draft
Version 1.1	29 July 2025	G. McQuiston	Following peer review
	29 July 2025	D Burrows	
Version 1.2	15/09/26	I R Carson	Following peer review

RISK ASSESSMENT

Purpose of the Assessment

This risk assessment identifies potential hazards on the golf course including the driving range, practice area, car park and immediate areas bordering the course. It evaluates the likelihood and severity of associated risks and outlines control measures to minimise harm to try and ensure the safety of members, visitors, the public and staff alike whilst protecting the club's reputation and operations during organised events. It should be regarded as a working document and updated as required.

All staff, golfers, volunteers, spectators

All staff, golfers, volunteers and spectators are responsible for ensuring that they do not endanger themselves, other golfers or any members of the public whilst playing, organising, observing or volunteering at any event organised by the Golf Club.

All accidents or dangerous occurrences which happen on the golf course must be reported to the office or a member of staff as soon as possible after the incident/event.

Powfoot Golf Club Management Committee

The Powfoot Golf Club Management Committee will be responsible for identifying and assessing sources of risk and will

- Prepare a written risk assessment for the prevention and/or control of risk
- Implement, manage and monitor all precautions taken to ensure that they remain fit for purpose, amending where necessary
- Keep accurate records of all precautions
- Keep records of reported issues and risks

Communication

Communication is a key factor in the risk assessment process. The risks need to be identified to allow the prioritisation of remedial actions to control the identified risks and individual responsibilities communicated to all relevant stakeholders.

Playing golf on uneven terrain and in changeable ground/weather conditions carries with it inevitable risks. All players should be aware of the existence of this risk assessment and it is available to be read via:

- The club website;
- The General Office;

- The clubhouse notice board
- Ladies and gents locker rooms

All players must familiarise themselves with the contents and remember that their own safety is first and foremost their responsibility. All course signs must be adhered to and Powfoot Golf Club accepts no liability for any accident or damage caused as a result of not following the safety notices and guidelines whilst on the course.

General Course Topography

The course is relatively flat and bounded by a variety of terrain including farmland, two caravan parks, woodland, public roadways and footpaths. There is also a public footpath that runs through the course thus giving public access.

Staff Working on the Course

At all times, staff working on the course have priority and no golf shots will be played if the staff are within range unless they clearly indicate that it is safe to play.

Lightning Policy

In the event of lightning or threat of lightning, the course will be closed. This will be signified by three long blasts on an air horn. Players must leave the course immediately and it is not an option to continue to play at your own risk. Where safe to do so, staff will conduct a sweep of the course to ensure that everyone has left the course.

Where there is not sufficient time to evacuate or leave the course due to the immediate threat of lightning, you should comply with the following procedure:-

1. Keep as low down as possible, seeking refuge in the nearest bunker or hollow;
2. Leave your golf equipment and stand away from it;
3. Do not shelter under trees or move to higher ground;
4. Do not use a mobile phone but switch it off;
5. Do not put up your umbrella under any circumstances;
6. Don’t stand near water.

Paths

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

Painted lines or Ground Under Repair (G.U.R)

These are temporary and placed at various locations on the course to ensure the safety of golfers and to assists the greens staff to maintain vulnerable parts of the course. Under no circumstances must golfers with trolleys or buggies cross these lines.

Footwear

All golfers must ensure that they have golf shoes which are adequate and suitable for the ground/weather conditions on the day of play.

Car Park

Powfoot Golf Club accepts no liability for any damage caused by golfers to vehicles parked in the club car park. By using the parking facilities, the owner/driver accepts the associated risks of doing so.

On Course Medical Emergency

In an obvious medical emergency on the course, make the injured party as comfortable as possible and phone 999 and request to be put through to the appropriate emergency service. You should also contact the club on 0141 204100. A list of certified first aiders can be found in the Clubhouse reception area as well as a defibrillator for use if required.

Powfoot Golf Club – Course Risk Assessment – General Version

This risk assessment covers the main hazards associated with the golf course, primarily from the golfer's perspective.

The hazard profile outlines general issues specific to particular areas of the golf course and grounds.

Nature of Risk	Who might be harmed and how	Risk level	Controls/mitigating factors	Residual risk
Adverse weather conditions	Golfers and greens staff. Being struck by lightning, being struck by falling debris such as branches, restricted visibility increasing the risk of being struck by a golf ball.	M	A golf course closure policy for covering adverse weather conditions such as lightning, high winds or fog exists. The starter, Course Manager/Office staff and greens keeping staff will liaise on when conditions are suitable/unsuitable for play. In foggy conditions, the course will be closed when the second left hand bunker on the first hole is not visible.	L
Holes in close proximity	Golfers, greens staff and others on the course risk injury by being hit by a golf ball or club.	H	Clear instruction given that:- green keepers have priority on the course at all times; on course signage advising of priorities and risks as appropriate; remain alert at all times to the actions of others; never play a shot unless the players in front are well out of range; if a mishit shot occurs and is heading for other course users or into a blind area, you must shout "FORE" in a loud voice to alert others of the possible danger. If in doubt, shout. If a shout of "FORE" is heard, take appropriate evasive action to avoid being hit;	L

			stand well back and to the side of the player who is playing their shot, both on the tee and on all other areas of the course.	
Tripping on uneven, sloping or slippery ground.	Golfers, greens staff and others are at risk of injuries such as cuts, bruises, grazes, sprains or fractures resulting from slips on wet/slippery surfaces, trips on uneven ground and falls.	M	Buffers are installed where there is a risk of falling from height. Bridges are kept clear of vegetation and fallen leaves. Greens staff have a timetable of inspection and routine maintenance. Course users advised to report any areas of concern. Periodic maintenance includes use of pressure washer cleaning and algaecide to prevent slippery surface. Warning signs are erected to notify users of potential risks and advice provided to stick to recognised pathways and avoid roped off areas.	L
Tripping over maintenance equipment, playing equipment, golf trolley or buggy.	Golfers, greens staff and others are at risk of injuries such as cuts, bruises, grazes, sprains or fractures resulting from slips or trips.	L	General safety advice provided to all to be aware of their surroundings and take care whilst on the course. Rakes to be stored within bunkers.	L
Slopes and banks on tee boxes, bunkers and around greens can be slippery when wet.	Golfers, greens staff and course users are at risk of grazing, sprains and fractures as a result of slips, trips and falls.	H	General safety advice provided to:- treat slopes with care, particularly when wet, avoid where possible ensure that footwear appropriate to the prevailing conditions is worn to reduce potential for slipping; follow routes designated by signage and post/roped walkway. Use steps where provided.	L
Steps.	Golfers, greens staff and other course users at risk of injuries including bruising, grazing, sprains and fractures as a result of slips, trips and falls.	H	Steps are subject to periodic inspection to detect early deterioration in their condition and initiate early repair and/or refurbishment. Steps are cleaned in the autumn/winter to remove fallen leaves and algae that may cause a slip hazard;	L

			Steps are kept clear of vegetation; Steps are fitted with synthetic grass to aid footing.	
Paths, car park and patio areas.	Golfers, greens staff and other course users at risk of injuries including bruising, grazing, sprains and fractures as a result of slips, trips and falls.	M	Paths are subject to periodic inspection to detect early deterioration in their condition and initiate early repair and/or refurbishment. They are well maintained and kept clear of vegetation where possible. Advice provided to follow directional signage for buggies/trolleys as these have specifically been introduced and developed to improve safe travel. During freezing conditions, these areas may become more slippery as a result of frost or ice. Greens staff will monitor these areas and apply salt/signage where appropriate to improve safety. Course users are also advised to timeously report any slippery/dangerous areas/conditions that they have encountered.	L
Bunkers	Golfers, greens staff and other course users at risk of injury as a result of overturning buggies or ATV's into bunkers. Risk of falling into or slipping into steep sided or deep bunkers.	M	ATV's, buggies and trolleys, whether motorised or otherwise, should be stopped a minimum distance of 2 meters from bunkers. Defined buggy routes should be followed as they avoid steep sided bunkers. When entering/exiting bunkers to play/after playing a shot, entry and exit should be by the steps provided or from the lowest point of the bunker.	L
Water Hazards	Golfers, greens staff and course users are at risk of drowning or contracting water borne diseases such as leptospirosis or legionnaire's disease.	L	Special care must be taken to avoid trips, slips and falls when standing on or walking near banks/slopes especially adjacent to marked ditches as these are considered to be some of the most hazardous areas of the course particularly during or immediately after adverse weather conditions. Players should be aware that some ditches have muddy banks and look dry but they can be treacherous and one can slip easily. Course users should take great care when walking in or retrieving balls from these areas.	L

Pop up sprinklers	Golfers, greens staff and course users risk injuries including sprains and fractures as a result of slips, trips and falls.	L	All greens, approaches and tee boxes have “pop up” style sprinklers mainly situated around the edge of the playing areas. Over time, some of these may become sunken as a result of sand build up on the edge of bunkers or obscured by grass and leaves. To counter this, greens staff have a programme of cleaning/clearing around sprinklers to ensure that they are visible/identifiable by course users.	L
Mature trees	Golfers, greens staff and other course users at risk of injury from falling branches/debris.	L	Course users advised to approach all mature trees and wooded areas with caution, particularly during windy or other adverse weather condition and by doing so, it is at their own risk. The club have a tree survey programme for the removal of unsafe/dangerous trees or branches. Course users are also encouraged to timeously report any such concerns to the office or a member of staff.	L
Animal scrapes and holes	Golfers, greens staff and other course users risk injuries including sprains and fractures as a result of slips, trips and falls.	M	Holes on the course dug by animals such as rabbits can become obscured on grass tracks and elsewhere on the course and pose a risk of tripping or falling. Course users are provided with safety advice including the need to remain vigilant and aware of their surroundings.	L
Hazardous substances	Golfers, greens staff and other course users are at risk of inhalation or ingestion of vapours, dusts and skin absorption on contact with chemicals used during routine course maintenance.	M	Temporary signage is erected informing course users that treatments are being/have been applied to areas of the course. These treatments will only be applied in suitable weather conditions to avoid unnecessary drift. Staff applying such chemicals will be suitably trained and certified to do so. Golfers are advised to avoid oral contact with anything that has been in contact with the golf course.	L
Wildlife	Golfers, greens staff and other course users at risk of bites/stings	M	The course contains a diverse natural habitat for species such as deer, rabbits, bees, wasps, ants, ticks and fleas some of which can sting/bite.	L

			All course users are given general safety advice to take care when in overgrown areas and to keep a safe distance from anything that has the potential as listed above. Any significant incidents should be reported to the office. Should a potentially hazardous/dangerous threat be identified such as the presence of a wasp nest or similar, it should be reported timeously to the office so that appropriate action to remove/reduce the threat can be taken.	
Driving range	Golfers, greens staff and other course users risk injury by being struck by a mishit golf shot or by a golf club.	**H**	Users of the driving range area are provided with safety advice including:- be aware at all times of their surroundings and the risk presented by/to them given the proximity of other users; exercise care at all times to avoid/reduce the potential for accidents/injuries to occur; do not walk onto the range to recover golf balls; persons under the age of 13 are prohibited from using the range without appropriate adult supervision; care must be exercised when walking to/from the range when in the car park area; long shot practice must not take place anywhere other than the range.	**L**
Short game area	Golfers, greens staff and other course users at risk of injury by being hit be a golf ball or club	**H**	Users of the short game area are provided with safety advice including:- be aware at all times of their surroundings and the risk presented by/to them given the proximity of other users; exercise care at all times to avoid/reduce the potential for accidents/injuries to occur;	**L**

			in the interests of safety, the area is only to be used for chipping, bunker shots and short range practice; take care when retrieving balls from the greens area when others are also using the same area; persons under the age of 13 are prohibited from using the practice facility without appropriate adult supervision; users should be aware of the potential for mishit shots from the adjacent 17th and 18th holes; care should be taken when crossing through the car park and machinery service area given the potential for moving vehicles to be present. Appropriate warning signage is in place	
Vehicles	Golfers, greens staff and other course users	**M**	Greens maintenance work is scheduled to minimize contact between vehicles and golfers with greens staff starting work at 06.30 in summer months prior to the course being open to golfers. Greens staff always have priority on the course. Consideration given to closing parts of the course where necessary during certain essential greens maintenance work Access to areas with high traffic (around greens workshops) by pedestrians and non-essential personnel is restricted and safety advice provided in the form of appropriate signage. Clearly designated routes for traffic on and off the course. Greens staff are aware of such routes. Course users provided with advice regarding areas of the course where steep slopes can make driving hazardous. Safe areas where course users have to cross internal and external roads in the clubs grounds have been created. These are kept clear of obstructions.	**L**

			10 MPH speed limit in place on the approach to the car park area.	
Golf buggies (usage)	Golfers and other course users can be crushed or trapped as a result of overturning a buggy. There is also a risk of injury to course users as a result of a collision.	**M**	A golf buggy safety policy has been devised and is issued to, read and signed by all prospective buggy users before a buggy is hired or taken onto the course. Guidance on specific routes to be followed and details of areas where buggies must not be driven is provided. General guidance on the operation of the buggy is provided. The use of privately owned single ride on buggies or standard double seat buggies are permitted only by prior agreement with the golf course manager. All must be operated in accordance with the buggy safety policy. Evidence of an insurance certificate providing 3rd party public liability must be provided each year when renewing membership or prior to authorisation being provided to use their own buggy. A copy of that insurance certificate will be retained in the office. This criteria also applies to any visitor bringing their own buggy with them. During inclement weather conditions or unsuitable course conditions, the use of buggies on the course will be suspended.	**L**
Public Access	Members of the public are less likely to be aware of the risks present on a golf course and consequently are at increased risk of being hit by a mishit golf ball, buggy or maintenance vehicle.	**H**	Public footpaths/roadways traverse the course on holes 3,6,8,11,13 onto 14 and 18. Signs have been erected at entry points and on the course warning the public of the potential danger from golf balls, work equipment and associated activities. Where possible, paths have a degree of protection afforded by mature trees, hedges and bushes on both sides. Golfers are aware to afford persons using these access ways priority and not play if anyone is within range. Warning signs are in place where users cross fairways.	**L**

			Golfers must shout “fore” if there is any likelihood of a mishit shot hitting anyone.	
Adjacent road/houses	Members of the public are less likely to be aware of the risks present on a golf course and consequently are at increased risk of being hit by a mishit golf ball leaving the confines of the course, vehicles or buildings at risk of being struck by a mishit golf ball.	**H**	Public road runs adjacent to holes 3, 4 and 15th hole with houses adjacent to 15th fairway/green. Direction of play should be away from hazards/course boundary to reduce the likelihood of an accident occurring. Trees/bushes in place to stop/slow mishit balls from leaving the course.	**L**
Caravan parks adjacent to the course on holes 2, 3 and 4.	Members of the public are less likely to be aware of the risks present on a golf course and consequently are at increased risk of being hit by a mishit golf ball leaving the confines of the course, vehicles or caravans at risk of being hit by a mishit golf ball.	**H**	Nets have been erected and located adjacent to the 2nd fairway to offer protection to persons/caravans at that location. On course alterations carried out at 2nd hole to try and encourage golfers to play away from the boundaries thus reducing the potential for golf balls to leave the confines of the course. Reporting system in place for any mishit golf balls leaving the course thus providing an indication of the prevalence of this occurring and whether additional measures may be required. Mesh fencing attached to stop low level balls from leaving the confines of the course on 2nd fairway. Working partnership established with Verdant Leisure Park Management to identify and resolve where possible identified issues that occur on 2nd hole. Addition of fast-growing shrubs which have been planted along the boundary fence of the 2nd hole adjacent to the caravan development. This should provide additional protection once established.	**L**

Hole by hole Analysis

All members and paying visitors are covered by a Club Group Insurance Policy. Members are also advised to have personal third party liability insurance in place to cover them for any unforeseen incident taking place.

Hole 1	Risk to players being hit by golf ball. Risk to players walking off the 2nd tee behind 1st green.	**M**	Be aware of golfers on 13th fairway. Give priority to players passing behind 1st green and wait until it is safe before taking your shot.	**L**
Hole 2	Risk to players on 1st green and tee areas on 3rd, 08th and 13th from mishit shot. Risk of mishit shot going into caravan park. Risk of slipping/falling on slopes on tee box, fairway and around the green.	**M**	Be aware of course users on 01st green and only drive if assessed safe to do so. Do not drive when the 13th tee is occupied as per the instruction on the sign in place. Be aware of course users on 08th and 03rd tee and only hit your shot if assessed as safe to do so. For any errant shots, a shout of “fore” must be made and any ball entering the confines of the caravan park must be reported as per the sign on the tee. Particular care should be taken when navigating all slopes especially when the ground is wet/slippery.	**L**
Hole 3	Risk to players on the 6th and 7th holes. Risk of mishit balls going out of bounds right and onto the roadway/car park/caravan park. Risk to persons crossing the course via the footpath/roadway.	**M**	Be aware of persons on adjacent holes and shout “fore” if a mishit ball is heading in their direction. Be mindful of persons/traffic on the public roadway/car park/caravan park and ensure that your shot is played away from the boundary. Give priority to walkers/course users using the footpath/roadway that bisects the fairway.	**L**

	Risk of slipping/falling.		Particular care should be taken when navigating all slopes especially when the ground is wet/slippery.	
Hole 4	Risk of mishit tee shots left and out of bounds right into caravan park.	**M**	Be aware of persons on adjacent holes/tee and shout “fore” if a mishit ball is heading in their direction. Ensure shot is played away from the boundary.	**L**
Hole 5	Risk of mishit shot onto adjacent fairways at 4th and 9th. Risk of hitting golfers on the adjacent greens, on the 5th green and on 6th tee	**M**	Be aware of persons on adjacent holes and shout “fore” if a mishit ball is heading in their direction. Allow greens and tee to clear if you consider them to be within range of your shot.	**L**
Hole 6	Risk of mishit tee shot. Risk of hitting those using the right of way crossing.	**M**	Be aware of persons on adjacent holes and shout “fore” if a mishit ball is heading in their direction. Give priority to anyone crossing the fairway via the roadway/path. Signage in place warning those using the roadway/path to be aware of golfers playing the hole.	**L**
Hole 7	Risk of mishit shot from 3rd tee	**M**	Take appropriate action to protect yourself if you hear a shout of “fore”.	**L**
Hole 8	Risk of mishit tee shot going onto 11th fairway or 6th green. Risk of mishit shot from 2nd fairway landing on the tee box. Risk of hitting those using the roadway/path that crosses the fairway. Risk of slipping or falling on	**M**	Be aware of persons on adjacent holes and shout “fore” if a mishit ball is heading in their direction. Take appropriate action to protect yourself if you hear a shout of “fore”. Give priority to anyone crossing via the roadway/path. Particular care should be taken when navigating all slopes especially when the ground is wet/slippery.	**L**

	fairway slopes or around the green.			
Hole 9	Risk of mishit tee shots onto adjacent fairways or 5th green. Risk of slipping or falling on fairway slopes or around the green	**M**	Be aware of persons on adjacent holes and shout “fore” if a mishit ball is heading in their direction. Particular care should be taken when navigating all slopes especially when the ground is wet/slippery.	**L**
Hole 10	Risk of mishit tee shots onto adjacent fairways.	**M**	Be aware of persons on adjacent holes and shout “fore” if a mishit ball is heading in their direction.	**L**
Hole 11	Risk of hitting those using the roadway/path that crosses the fairway Risk of hitting unseen golfers on the fairway Risk of slipping or falling on fairway slopes or around the green	**M**	Give priority to anyone crossing via the roadway/path. Signage in place warning those using the roadway/path to be aware of golfers playing the hole. Check that the fairway is clear by using the gantry in place, taking care when ascending/descending the steps. Particular care should be taken when navigating all slopes especially when the ground is wet/slippery.	**L**
Hole 12	Risk of mishit tee shots onto adjacent fairways.	**M**	Be aware of persons on adjacent holes and shout “fore” if a mishit ball is heading in their direction.	**L**
Hole 13	Risk of mishit tee shots onto adjacent green or fairways Risk of being struck by golf ball from 2nd tee	**M**	Be aware of persons on adjacent holes/green and shout “fore” if a mishit ball is heading in their direction. Take appropriate action to protect yourself if you hear a shout of “fore” from 2nd tee. Signage in place warning those on 2nd tee not to drive when the 13th tee is occupied.	**L**

Hole 14	Risk of mishit tee shots onto adjacent green/fairways Risk of slipping or falling on fairway slopes or around the green	**M**	Be aware of persons on adjacent holes/green together with those who may be hidden from view. Always shout “fore” if a mishit ball is heading in their direction or if there is a possibility of anyone being hit. Particular care should be taken when navigating all slopes especially when the ground is wet/slippery.	**L**
Hole 15	Risk of mishit tee shot landing on 16th tee or out of bounds right toward the housing. Risk of slipping or falling on fairway slopes, crossing the ditch via the bridge or around the green.	**M**	Be aware of persons on adjacent holes or on the roadway/housing area and shout “fore” if a mishit ball is heading in their direction. Particular care should be taken when navigating all slopes and the bridge over the ditch especially when the ground is wet/slippery.	**L**
Hole 16	Risk of mishit tee shots landing on 17th green/fairway or adjacent roadway Risk of hitting hidden golfers on the fairway Risk of slipping or falling on fairway slopes or around the green.	**M**	Be aware of persons on adjacent holes and shout “fore” if a mishit ball is heading in their direction. Be aware of pedestrians or vehicles on adjacent roadway and play shots away from course boundary. Do not tee off until you are certain the fairway is clear. Particular care should be taken when navigating all slopes especially when the ground is wet/slippery.	**L**
Hole 17	Risk of mishit tee shots.	**M**	Be aware of persons on adjacent holes and the practice area and shout “fore” if a mishit ball is heading in their direction	**L**
Hole 18	Risk of mishit tee shots. Risk of hitting anyone using the right of way.	**M**	Be aware of persons on adjacent holes and shout “fore” if a mishit ball is heading in their direction. Give priority to anyone crossing via the roadway/path. Signage in place warning those using the roadway/path to be aware of golfers playing the hole.	**L**

	Risk of landing a ball out of bounds in the car park. Risk of hitting golfers heading for 1st tee or using putting green. Risk of slipping or falling on fairway slopes or around the green.		Be aware of pedestrians or vehicles in the adjacent car park and play shots away from course boundary. Be aware of persons beyond the green and shout “fore” if a mishit ball is heading in their direction. Particular care should be taken when navigating all slopes especially when the ground is wet/slippery.	