



Sample risk assessment for farm activities

Site name:	Grid ref:
Owner:	Tel. no:
Assessors:	Date of assessment:
Nearest hospital tel: Doctors' surgery tel: Site access for emergency vehicles:	

Activity: Trailer rides

<i>Hazard</i>	<i>Risk level</i>	<i>Action</i>
Overhanging branches and brambles on trailer-ride routes	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remove any potentially dangerous overhanging vegetation on routes to be used that day Regularly maintain frequently used trailer routes
Open-sided trailer	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Before every ride, leader gives a safety talk to make sure that children i) stay seated at all times when trailer is moving; ii) keep their hands, feet and heads inside the green bars; iii) hold onto green bars if necessary Teachers and parents to space themselves between children so that they can reach across if the need to Leader or teacher to sit at back of trailer, with chain secured across doorway before setting off Tell the driver to drive slowly, and make the driver aware of very young children

Activity: Games

Wet ground	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assess ground conditions before the visit. Decide whether to a) cancel game or b) play game by walking not running
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Activity: Pond-dipping		
Direct access to pond edge	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fenced area, gated access – no access unless supervised • Leader to tell group to first sit on benches away from pond while they listen to instructions, then to dip from purpose-built platform only
Deep water	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Put up caution signs, give verbal warnings • Put out long poles and throw lines as rescue equipment
Uneven section of boardwalk at far side of pond	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Replace or even out section
Slippery surface on bridge and platform in wet conditions	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider covering the bridge and platform with chicken wire to make the surface less slippery
Gaps between horizontal bars on dipping platform	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Before they start dipping, tell the children not to lean below the lowest bar or lean too far over • Make sure the group is adequately supervised at all times
Bacteria in pond water	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health & safety talk to all groups • Cover cuts and use antiseptic wipes • Wash hands with soap and water after activity • Give advice on how to use nets to avoid splashing

Activity: Land-use		
Unsupervised small groups	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make sure that every group has a clear map and instructions about where to meet and where not to go • Education officer to decide ability of group and allow access accordingly
Unstable gate into oak tree field	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Repair gate • Tell the group going to station F not lean on the gate until it's been repaired
Paths overgrown	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clear obstructing vegetation from the paths before the visit



Activity: Soils walk through field

Disembarking trailer on road next to gate into field	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leader to get off first and check for oncoming traffic, then stand where they can help the group get off safely • Tell the group to stand off the road, next to gate • Get help from the driver if necessary
Unstable gate at top of field	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manager to make sure it gets replaced
Digging a hole	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leader to tell the group how to use a spade safely, by keeping their back straight and not jumping with both feet on spade
Ground conditions – clay soil very slippery and water logged in wet conditions	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Warn the group about the conditions and seek an alternative route if necessary
Deep hole by 2 nd site bottom of Annis field	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mark the hole with yellow sticks • Tell the group to avoid the hole
Cattle in field	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tell the children to behave sensibly and stay together when walking past cattle • If necessary, ask the manager to move the bull from the field

Activity: Animals

Dirty and dangerous surfaces on gates, sheep race, sheep pens etc	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Warn children before the start of the visit • Staff to monitor the animals daily and clean where appropriate • Jet-wash hurdles before lambing
Hurdles in use not secured	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secure or remove hurdles from areas to be visited
General untidiness in orphan lamb area (March–May)	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clear this area each morning before the visit
Brooms, forks and other tools in aisle areas in and around lambing shed	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Store these away from paths regularly used by children (liaise with farm staff) • Warn visiting school groups – advise caution
Big barn doors not properly secured	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff to check that doors are securely fastened
Farm and delivery vehicles moving around yard	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Put up speed-restriction signs at the entrance to the yard • Make farm staff aware when there are groups in the yard • Health & safety – make children aware of moving vehicles and instruct to stay as a group

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Activity: Machines		
Climbing into combine harvester cab	Low/ Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leader to get into the cab first, teacher to help children at the bottom of ladder • Only three children allowed in the cab at any one time • Children told to climb down the ladder backwards
Machine demonstration (occasional)	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tell children to stand together in a place where the driver can see them, and to keep a safe distance away
Stationary farm machinery	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check regularly for loose and dangerous parts • Make sure that all machinery is flat on the ground or roped off • Remove keys from all machines when there are visitors on site

Activity: Grain store		
Dust	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leave at least one set of doors open when groups are in grain store • Health & safety talk – ask children about allergies and tell them about dust in the grain store • Remind children that the air may be dusty and that they can go outside if they need to
Access to grain store wind tunnel	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education staff to check the door is closed before every visit
Access to ladder up to top of grain store	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cordon off the ladder with hazard tape before every visit
Access to light and power switches	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tell the children not to touch switches • Set up the activity well away from switches



Activity: River studies (measuring and dipping)

Dead trees along bridleway	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check stability of trees before the visit
Overhead electricity cables near house (top) and halfway down bridle way	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check stability of posts before the visit
Roadside hazard – crossing road from entrance to bridle way	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make sure there are adults at the front and at the back of the group • Warn the children • Supervise properly
Brambles and thorns at eye-height on bridle way	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clear the path before the visit
Weather conditions – especially relevant given lack of shelter at sites	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take a first aid kit and blanket on each visit • Tell the school about making sure the children have suitable clothing
Slippery banks	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health & safety talk to all groups
Deep / fast flowing water	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visit the site before the group arrives to make sure the water is not too deep and to remove obstacles from the river • Make teachers aware that the visit may have to be cancelled if, on inspection, you decide that the river is not safe for fieldwork • Put hurdles into the river and rope off any section where river has scoured out a dip underneath the bridge
Using waders	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health & safety talk to all groups • Send health & safety guidelines to all schools
Using / carrying field equipment	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health & safety talk to all groups
Bridge gets slippery when wet	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tell children to walk carefully across bridge
Bacteria in water	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cover cuts before starting the activity • Advise children with severe cuts or eczema not to have contact with water • Health & safety talk to all groups • Send health & safety guidelines to all schools

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Activity: Woodland trail and minibeast hunt (habitats)

Wildlife hazards – snakes, fungi etc	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Warn children not to approach
Overhanging branches and brambles on walk through copse	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cut back as necessary before the visit• Warn children as they approach the woodland
Trip hazard – tree roots, slippery leaves	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tell children instructed not to run in the woods and watch where they are walking at all times
Splitting up into smaller groups for minibeast hunting	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Divide the group between the adults, and make sure that there is one adult with each group• Tell the groups to stay within earshot
Lifting logs and stones	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tell children to ask the adult in the group to turn heavy stones / logs

Activity: Sweep netting in meadow (habitats)

Metal frame on sweep net	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tell children to sweep a safe distance away from group members; leader / teachers to supervise
Direct access to river from meadow	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tell the group to stay away from the edge of the river