

Low Barns school visit Risk Assessment 2021

Probability		Severity		Risk Level
1 Improbable	*	1 No harm	=	1-5 = Low
2 Infrequent		2 Minor injury to one or more persons		6-10 = Medium
3 Occasional		3 Major injury to one or more persons		
4 Common		4 Death to one person		11-25 = High
5 Certain		5 Death to several people		

If the calculated risk level for any hazard associated with a planned activity is higher than 5 control measures are required and the risk level should then be recalculated. If the risk level cannot be reduced to 5 or below after control measures are in place the activity cannot proceed.

<b>Date:</b>	<b>Location:</b> Low Barns
<b>Activity:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>School Visit</li> </ul> <b>Persons at Risk:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Up to 30 children and accompanying staff from one school</li> <li>Two DWT staff members.</li> </ul>	<b>Names of Employees Involved:</b>
	<b>Activities:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pond dipping</li> <li>Minibeast hunt</li> <li>Wildlife walk</li> </ul>
<b>Nearest hospital:</b>  Durham DH1 5TW or Darlington DL3 6HX	<b>Site location :</b>  Low Barns Nature Reserve, Witton Le Wear DL14 0AG

Hazard	Likelihood (1 to 5)	Severity (1 to 5)	Risk Level (1 to 25)	Control Measures Required	Likelihood (1 to 5)	Severity (1 to 5)	Risk Level (1 to 25)
Contract Covid 19 by person to person transmission within the group	3	4	12	<p>No person exhibiting symptoms should attend a session. See <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/coronavirus-covid-19-list-of-guidance">https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/coronavirus-covid-19-list-of-guidance</a> for current guidance on symptoms.</p> <p>No one with symptoms is able to attend and should stay home, self isolate and book a test at the relevant test centre. The DWT leader must maintain 1m plus distance from visitors at all times and carry a face mask/shield for use if needed.</p> <p>If a school group is taken into a hide all adult staff will be asked to wear a facemask and doors and windows kept open if possible.</p> <p>Alcoholic hand gel should be available for use by all.</p> <p>Equipment such as ID sheets should not be passed between the group and staff. If items do change hands they should be placed on the ground and hand gel used.</p> <p>Fresh equipment should be used by each school group and equipment cleaned at the end of the day or left in quarantine for at least 3 days.</p>	1	4	4

<p>Contract Covid 19 by person to person transmission between group and members of the public passing by</p>	2	4	8	<p>DWT staff will talk with the group before setting out about maintaining social distancing within the group (between leader and group) and with the public. Look for passing places and stand back to allow others past at a safe distance. If distance is limited, turn your back to the person passing. Avoid touching hand rails or anything others may have touched. Ensure hand gel is available.</p> <p>Main toilet door (not cubicle) to be propped open to reduce cross contamination. Everyone to gel hands before entering and wash thoroughly after using the toilet.</p> <p>Education staff to give bathroom touchpoints (door handles, taps etc) a quick spray clean once the full school group has been in.</p>	1	4	4
<p>Access road and car park:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Injury by car</li> </ul>	3	4	12	<p>Keep class / groups together under adult supervision and warn children about cars. Speed of vehicles restricted.</p>	1	4	4
<p>Centre buildings including West Hide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Trip, slip or bump injuries.</li> <li>Trapped fingers in hide windows</li> </ul>	2	2	4	<p>Deliver safety talk on walking-only around buildings. Advise adults only to operate hide windows and children to stay well clear. Adults to open doors and windows and clean after session</p>	1	2	2

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Covid transimtion touching surfaces in hides</li> </ul>							
<p>Paths around the reserve:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trips and slips from slippery uneven ground and trip hazards.</li> </ul>	4	2	8	<p>Deliver safety talk advising to watch for slippery, uneven ground or obstacles on path. When appropriate keep to paths and walk (not run) around. Confirmation letter recommends appropriate footwear. Pond dipping platforms covered with wire mesh.</p>	2	2	4
<p>Insect stings (e.g. bees, wasps) and biting insects. Rashes / reactions from plants (e.g. nettles), nuts in bird feeders:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Allergic reactions</li> <li>• Poisoning</li> </ul>	3	4	12	<p>Raise staff and children's awareness by pointing out hazardous plants such as, nettles and fungi. Designated school first aiders are responsible for any child with allergies. Booking form requests information of such allergies. Keep nut allergy pupils away from bird feeders and from touching any tree nuts (e.g. beech nuts). Advise against ingestion of any flora, fauna or fungi. Only experienced leaders to handle bees and wasps.</p>	1	4	4
<p>Hazardous litter e.g. broken glass:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cuts</li> </ul>	2	2	4	<p>Check education areas for hazardous litter before a school visit. Keep an eye out for hazards. Ask children not to touch litter but to report it to an adult. DWT staff to remove.</p>	1	2	2

<p>Adverse weather:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Poor weather increases risk of accidents.</li> <li>• Sunburn</li> <li>• Hypothermia</li> </ul>	2	4	8	<p>Confirmation letter recommends appropriate clothing and sun cream. Monitor weather conditions while working. Stop activity if winds are strong and/or it is very cold and wet. Avoid woodland if very windy.</p>	1	4	4
<p>Ponds and river:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Drowning</li> </ul>	2	4	8	<p>Check condition of pond dipping area before visits. Report any problems to the Reserve Manager. Use an alternative area until the problem is rectified. Children stay in groups and be supervised by adults. Give safety talk about not leaning over or climbing on the barriers and not going close to pond or river edges. Education staff have poles or a throw line with them.</p>	1	4	4

<p>Collecting minibeasts on land and in ponds:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Leptospirosis bacteria</li> <li>• Zoonosis</li> <li>• Eye injuries</li> <li>• Trip injuries</li> <li>• Crush injuries</li> </ul>	3	4	12	<p>Anyone with recent cuts to wear plastic gloves. Children must avoid putting hands in their mouths, nose or ears. Alcohol gel or wipes to be used after collecting. All hands to be washed before lunch.</p> <p>Spread groups out so that each child with a net is away from anyone else. Give safety talk on safety with net poles. Warn against low branches and tree stumps in the woodland area. Detail the restrictions to collecting areas. Demonstrate correct procedure for looking under larger logs or stones (i.e. roll gently away and not lift) and pond dipping.</p>	2	4	8
<p>Playing games:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trip or bump injuries</li> </ul>	3	2	6	<p>Carry out games in safe, confined areas – within the west hide classroom or in short grass. Restrict speed appropriate to the area. Give warnings of trip or bump hazards.</p>	2	2	4
<p>Child safety issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pupil physical and emotional welfare</li> <li>• Separation from group</li> </ul>	2	4	8	<p>Keep groups together in designated areas with appropriate adult to child ratios. West Hide to be closed to the public during the duration of visit. School staff to accompany children to Visitor Centre toilet facilities. All DWT education staff DBS checked and complete Child Safeguarding training.</p>	1	4	4

Charcoal burner and log pile: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Burns</li> <li>• Crush injuries</li> </ul>	2	3	6	Give warning that the charcoal burner and log pile area are out of bounds. If the burner is in use it will be manned by DWT staff and is protected by a fence	1	3	3
Dog faeces: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Toxicara canis</li> </ul>	2	2	4	Check education areas for dog faeces before a school visit. Warn people to watch for dog poo. Ask children to report it to an adult. DWT staff to remove.	1	2	2
Dogs being walked by members of the public: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dog bite</li> </ul>	2	4	8	Dogs should be kept on the lead when in the Nature Reserve. Ask dog owners to control their dogs.	1	4	4
Proximity to swans: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Attack by swans</li> </ul>	3	2	6	Warn children and adults to respect wildlife. Education Leaders to keep group safe distance from swans.	1	2	2

Assessment completed by:    Date: .....	Assessment approved by:    Date:
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Incident or 'near miss' report:

Completed by:

Date