



# School Visits



Rare  
Breeds  
Centre

## Risk Assessment: Educational activities for schools and groups

**Department:** Farm  
**Assessed by:** HH  
**Reviewed By:** BM / FVD

**Location:** RBC Farm, Animal  
Talk Area, Nature Activity Area  
**Date Last Assessed & updated:**  
23/09/2024

**Other Information:** Pre-booked educational activities led by RBC staff, in designated areas. Safety briefing given at start of activity. Animal Contact Advice given prior and on day of visit to group leaders.

**EMERGENCY INFORMATION:** Nearest hospital: William Harvey Hospital Ashford. Kennington Rd, Willesborough, Ashford, Kent TN24 0LZ  
LADO (Local Authority Designated Officer) contact details – Telephone: 03000 41 08 88 Emergency Telephone: 03000 41 11 11

Hazard	Risk	Who might be harmed	Risk level Low, medium, high	Proposed measures	Residual risk level
General hazards					
Slips, trips & falls	Injury – bruises, grazes, cuts, broken bones	Group/ Visitors Staff	Low	Verbal warning. Appropriate footwear. Adult supervision.	Low
Contact with animals	Direct and indirect contact with animals poses a risk of injury or infection. Zoonotic disease may be contracted such as E-coli 0157 & 067, Salmonella, Hepatitis A, B & C, Tetanus, or orf. Allergic reaction	Group/ Visitors Staff	High	All participants advised to wash hands before and (hand wash facilities at various locations around site) immediately after session, touching animals and before eating or drinking. All participants can only touch animals in our designated “animal contact areas”, shown by the signs on site. Participants advised to wash hands after leaving one of these areas. Advised to follow Animal Contact Advice (displayed around site and sheet given to group leader prior to visit and on day of visit) Any cuts to be covered up, and allergies to be made aware of by teachers. Hand washing supervision by teachers and carers, especially for younger children, is strongly advised.	Low



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Direct or indirect contact with pregnant livestock	Contracting infectious diseases such as Toxoplasmosis, Chlamydia abortus or Listeria	Pregnant women	High	Follow our Pregnancy warning info – can be found online: Those pregnant are advised: Only touch animals in our designated “animal contact areas”. Do not touch sheep, lambs, cattle and adult goats or kids during times of lambing or calving. Follow our Animal Contact Advice Be aware of cross contamination risk (other children, animal pens etc.) Wash pram wheels, etc. at welly wash before leaving the site. Always wash hands after touching any animal, their pens and before eating, and especially after leaving our animal contact areas.	Low
Adverse weather conditions	Sun burn, Heat stroke, Hyperthermia.	Group/Visitors Staff	Medium	Advised to wear appropriate clothing – sunhats if warm weather is expected, waterproofs and wellies if rain is expected. Advised to bring dry socks. Activity may be suspended in adverse weather conditions.	Low
General public on site	Unauthorised adult abducting a child	Group/Visitors	High	All activities and talks designed so children are always in view of staff. Self-guided sections to be monitored by school staff.	Low
Poor safeguarding of children	Concerns of abuse or harm not reported	Group/Visitors	Low	All staff trained in Safeguarding of children. LADO contact details provided above.	
Nature Activities: Bug Hunting & Pond Dipping					
Use of equipment including sweep nets and dipping nets.	Knocks from handles/ heads when working near one another. Trapping fingers. Injury to fingers and eyes.	Group/Visitors Staff	Medium	Safety briefing given at the start of activity. Warn to take care and be aware of who is around them/near when using equipment. Adult supervision throughout activity. Organise groups; small groups only, provide space at dipping/sweep area and alternate turns.	Low



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				Warn to take care when closing lids to bug boxes.	
Insect bites (including Greater Water Boatman) and stings	Injury Potential to lead to Anaphylactic shock	Group/ Visitors Staff	Medium	Safety briefing given at start of activity. Advise to wear long sleeves & trousers/wellington boots/stout shoes. Awareness of allergy needs to be known/informed. Appropriate medication to be carried by allergic individual/ accompanying adult. Appropriate first aid cover within group required. Advised to be careful when looking for bugs. Adult supervision. Warn that some minibeasts may bite if touched – use equipment if necessary.	Low
Plant stings (nettles) and thorns (brambles).	Injury	Group/ Visitors Staff	Low	Advised to wear long sleeves & trousers. Awareness of allergy needs to be known/informed. Appropriate medication to be carried by allergic individual/ accompanying adult. Appropriate first aid cover within group required. Advised to be careful when looking for bugs in the vegetation. Made aware of any dangerous plants.	Low
Ticks	Lyme's disease	Staff Group/ Visitors	Medium	Safety briefing given at start of activity. Staff to notify visiting group if they find any ticks in the grass. Group told to stay on mown paths and avoid long grass. Adult supervision throughout activity.	Low
Rolling and turning logs or stones on to feet/ trapped fingers.	Injury	Group/ Visitors Staff	Low	Adult supervision. Appropriate footwear. Safety briefing given at start of activity. Appropriate first aid cover within group required.	Low



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Disease from soil	Injury Sickness from Melioidosis or Anthrax	Group/ Visitors Staff	Low	Safety briefing given at start of activity. Avoid hand contact with face prior to handwashing. Children advised to wash hands before eating and at end of the day. Open wounds covered.	Low
Activity is close to deep water. Water is approx. 1 metre – sufficient to drown.	Falling into pond Drowning Shock Hypothermia	Staff Group/ Visitors	High	Safety briefing given at start of activity. Only dip from platform (has nonslip decking), tell children to kneel when dipping behind safety railing and no leaning. Supervise activity and restrict numbers on platform at any one time – no more than 2 children. Area containing pond is fenced and gated to prevent unauthorised entrance.	Low
Slippery surfaces	Slipping/falling into pond	Staff Group/ Visitors	Low	Safety briefing given at start of activity. Verbal warning. Supervision. Advise no running. If ground too slippery, activity will be suspended/cancelled. Platform has nonslip decking.	Low
Pond water	Potential infection from Weil's disease/ Leptospirosis via open cuts or putting hands in mouth during dipping.	Staff Group/ Visitors	High	Safety briefing given at start of activity. Verbal warning of dangers of pond water at start of activity. Warn not to put fingers in mouths whilst dipping. Cover fresh/open cuts with waterproof plaster or non-allergic disposable gloves before dipping. If not possible, that individual cannot participate. Wash hands before eating / at end session. Pest control measures on site.	Low
Animal Talks					
Touching and handling a variety of animals	Injury Disease	Staff Group/ Visitors	Medium	Safety briefing given. Talk is led by experienced staff.	Low



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	Allergy- Potential to lead to Anaphylactic shock Infection			<p>Careful selection of animal used any animal that is thought to present a risk at any time will be withdraw from the session and not used.</p> <p>Awareness of allergy needs to be known/informed by school.</p> <p>Appropriate medication to be carried by allergic individual/ accompanying adult.</p> <p>All participants can only touch animals in our designated “animal contact areas”, shown by the signs on site. Participants advised to wash hands after leaving one of these areas.</p> <p>All participants advised to wash hands before and (hand wash facilities at various locations around site) immediately after session, touching animals and before eating or drinking.</p> <p>Hand washing supervision by teachers and carers, especially for younger children, is strongly advised.</p> <p>Advised to follow Animal Contact Advice provided prior to visit.</p>	
Animal Faces –activity using craft materials					
Use of equipment and materials including scissors and glue, paper.	Injury	Staff Group/ Visitors	Low	<p>Activity closely supervised.</p> <p>Avoid use of sharps where possible and ensure sharps in use are returned to safe store and not left out when unattended.</p> <p>Use child’s safety scissors and child safe glue.</p>	Low