

Risk Assessment: Learning visits					
Site, department, work area	WWT Steart Marshes Learning Department				
Task being assessed	Learning visit to Steart Marshes				
Risk Assessor/s	Nicole Turnbull				
Date of original Assessment	25/01/2019	Date of latest Review	02/02/2026	Next review due	02/02/2027

What is the hazard?	Persons at risk- who might be harmed?	How might people be harmed?	Existing Control Measures	Risk Rating With existing control measures L x S = RR			Is this acceptable? Yes/ No	Further Action needed to Control the Risk?	Risk Rating With additional control measures L x S = RR			To be Actioned by (Person & date)
				Likelihood of harm	Severity of harm	Risk rating			Likelihood of harm	Severity of harm	Risk rating	
Water borne and air borne diseases passed from animals to humans	Children, teachers, visitors, volunteers & staff	Zoonotic infection	- Zoonosis policy and reduction procedures in place at WWT - WWT staff provide clear hygiene instructions at start of session. - Covering any cuts on the hands with a plaster is recommended. - Hand washing facilities at toilets. - School groups are not given close access to livestock. - Good adult to child ratios to help with vigilance. - Regular cleaning of surfaces around site. - School to eat any packed lunches in designated areas	1	4	4	Yes	No				
Nettles and plants	Children, teachers, visitors & staff	Stings, cuts and scratches	- WWT staff check areas prior to learning sessions. - All staff outdoor first aid trained. - Good adult: child ratios to help with vigilance.	1	3	3	Yes	No				
Berries and fungi	Children, teachers, visitors & staff	Poisoning from ingestion	- WWT staff provide clear health and safety instructions at start of session. - Hand washing facilities at toilets. - Good adult: child ratios to help with vigilance.	1	5	5	Yes	No				
Insects	Children, teachers, visitors and staff	Bites and stings	- WWT staff check teaching areas prior to learning sessions. - All staff outdoor first aid trained. - Good adult: child ratios to help with vigilance. - Nests cordoned off/removed in public areas. - Vegetation well managed by site team.	1	3	3	Yes	No				

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Stings and bites	Children, teachers, visitors & staff	Allergic reaction	- WWT staff check teaching areas prior to learning sessions. - All staff outdoor first aid trained. - Good adult: child ratios to help with vigilance.	3	3	9	Yes	No				
Uneven surfaces & change in surface types	Children, teachers, visitors & staff	Slips, trips	- Regular inspection and maintenance of surfaces & matting. - WWT staff check areas prior to learning sessions. - All staff outdoor first aid trained. - Good adult: child ratios to help with vigilance. - Sensible footwear to be worn by all – closed toe.	2	2	4	Yes	No				
Litter and debris	Children, teachers, visitors & staff	Cuts, scratches	- Regular litter picking and site checks. - WWT staff check areas prior to learning sessions. - All staff outdoor first aid trained. - Good adult: child ratios to help with vigilance.	2	1	2	Yes	No				
Moving vehicles or machinery/ equipment	Children, teachers, visitors & staff	Injury from contact	- Learning team informed of any contractors on site. - Health and safety controls in place for WWT staff and volunteers operating vehicles and machinery. - Contractors needing to move plant during opening hours- health & safety controls will be put in place prior to commencement of task. - Learning staff check areas prior to learning sessions. - All staff outdoor first aid trained. - Good adult to child ratios to help with vigilance.	1	5	5	Yes	No				

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Water	Children, teachers, visitors & staff	Drowning (falling into ponds whilst walking around site) Hypothermia Cold water shock Secondary drowning (water inhalation) zoonosis	• Clear verbal H&S advice given at start of visit. • Water bodies designed and managed to give a clear water's edge/ delineation. • Water bodies risk assessed. • Wearing of suitable footwear by all • Cuts on hand covered with a plaster. • Duty 1st aider appointed each day. • Adult: child ratio to help with vigilance.	1	5	5	Yes	No				
Equipment	Children, adults	Cuts, bruising due to incorrect use	• Learning staff check areas and equipment prior to learning sessions. • Clear verbal instruction/practical demonstration given by WWT staff before individuals use equipment. • All staff outdoor first aid trained. • Good adult: child ratios to help with vigilance.	2	2	4	Yes	No				
Hides	Children, teachers & staff	Slipping/ tripping on steep steps, slipping off high benches, trapping fingers in windows, bumping heads on window ledges	• Clear verbal Health & Safety advice given at start of visit. • All staff outdoor first aid trained. • Adult: child ratio to help with vigilance. • Hides and roundhouse checked and maintained regularly.	2	2	4	Yes	No				

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Hot and cold weather	Children, teachers, visitors & staff	Sunburn, heatstroke, dehydration hypothermia	- Clear advice given to teachers prior to visit regarding appropriate clothing/ footwear/equipment. - More suitable location used if necessary. - Shelter provided for lunch breaks. - All staff outdoor first aid trained. - Tap water available - Good adult: child ratios to help with vigilance.	3	1	3	Yes	No				
Ice and/or snow	Children, teachers, visitors & staff	Slip/fall. Feeling cold/ hypothermia	- Regular site checks by grounds staff. - Path gritting procedures in place. - Health and safety talk by WWT staff. - Good adult: child ratios to help with vigilance. - Wearing of suitable footwear and clothing	2	2	4	Yes	No				
Pond dipping	Children, teachers, visitors & staff	Infection, poisoning from water borne disease/ algal blooms	- WWT volunteers provide clear hygiene instructions at start of session. - Hand washing facilities available at toilets - Good adult: child ratios to help with vigilance. - Pond dipping area regularly checked and maintained.	1	3	3	Yes	No				
Pond dipping - Misuse of equipment	Children	Cuts and bruises	- WWT volunteers to provide clear health and safety instructions at the start of sessions including appropriate behaviour. - Good adult: pupil ratios to help with vigilance. - WWT staff and attending school adults to remove equipment if misuse is suspected.	2	2	4	Yes	No				
Pond dipping - Water creatures	Children, teachers, visitors & staff	Bites from Greater water boatmen & Dragonfly nymphs	- WWT staff check areas prior to learning sessions. - All staff outdoor first aid trained - Good adult: child ratios to help with vigilance. - Warn participants that some creatures bite so not to touch any.	1	3	3	Yes	No				

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Hand sanitiser.	Children, teachers, visitors & staff	Irritation, allergic reaction	- Individuals with sensitive skin advised to use soap and water. - Please note that use of alcohol-based hand gel by Muslims is allowed as contributes to personal hygiene and the alcohol is not absorbed into the body.	1	1	1	Yes	No				
Child or adults at risk becoming separated from guardians	Children, adults at risk	Trauma, injury	- WWT staff provide clear instructions at start of session re staying together. - Teaching staff and helper vigilance. - Good adult: child ratios to help with vigilance. - WWT's Lost child procedure implemented if necessary.	2	1	2	Yes	No				
Safeguarding risks	Children, adults at risk	Inappropriate behaviour, abuse, kidnapping	- WWT safeguarding policy, reporting system and guidance in place and training provided to all WWT staff and volunteers. - If a copy of the policy is needed or education staff have any questions prior to the visit, please do not hesitate to ask your WWT contact. They can also ask the WWT safeguarding lead to contact you if necessary. - Learning staff all have enhanced DBS clearance. - Vigilance of all staff and volunteers (radios) - Photography not allowed of areas/activities when children participating unless consent has been given. - Good adult: child ratios to help with vigilance. - WWT's Lost child procedure implemented if necessary.	1	5	5	Yes	No				
Fire	Children, teachers, visitors & staff	Burns, smoke inhalation	- In case of fire, WWT staff will lead evacuation procedure. - Teachers to be aware of signage and follow instructions.	1	5	5	Yes	No				

WWT RISK SCORING MATRIX

Consequence of Accident/Incident			Likelihood of Accident/Incident occurring					
				Extremely Unlikely	Unlikely	Possible	Very Likely	Almost Certain
Equip/Property	Injury	Disease		1	2	3	4	5
Insignificant Damage, no rework	Insignificant No lost time	Insignificant Not applicable	1	1	2	3	4	5
Minor Damage requiring rework < 2 hrs	Minor Injury with up to 3/7 days lost time	Minor Non – Disabling	2	2	4	6	8	10
Moderate Damage requiring rework> 2hrs	Moderate Over 7 days lost time	Moderate Disabling, but fit for normal duties	3	3	6	9	12	15
Major Damage requiring rework > 8hrs	Major Long term absence	Major Disabling, Unfit for normal duties	4	4	8	12	16	20
Catastrophic Scrap of Eqpt/ plant	Catastrophic Death	Catastrophic Death attributable to disease	5	5	10	15	20	25

Emergency information

Location of nearest phone	Office: 01278 651090 07717 505966
Local hospitals (emergency and non-emergency)	Minor Injuries Bridgwater Hospital 01278 436555 A&E Musgrove Park Hospital, Taunton 01823 333444
Access points for emergency services	See map for locations and grid references