

Risk Assessment: Learning visits to Steart Marshes



Site, department, work area	Steart Marshes, Learning visits				
Task being assessed	Learning visits				
Risk Assessor/s	Alys Laver/Nicole Turnbull/Jo Haywood				
Date of original Assessment	25/01/19	Date of latest Review	11/04/2022	Next review due	11/04/2023

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 ?	Further Action needed to Control the Risk?	Risk Rating With additional control measures L x S = RR			To be Actioned by (Person and date)
				Likelihood of harm	Severity of harm	Risk rating			Likelihood of harm	Severity of harm	Risk rating	
Covid-19	Staff, volunteers, visitors	Covid-19 infection	Those with suspected or confirmed covid should NOT come on the visit.	1	4	4	yes					
Entrance through the car park	Children, members of public, staff and volunteers	Moving vehicles - collision	Students to be dropped off near the back of car park where there is less traffic and to be met by member of staff. Clear separate pedestrian pathway Children at all times to be accompanied by an adult Clearly defined parking bays Provide clear Health & Safety instruction at start of session Ensure supervisor is wearing high visibility clothing	2	5	10	yes					

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Contact with potentially infectious animals/water or surfaces	Children, members of public, staff and volunteers	Zoonotic diseases (Avian diseases/Lymes disease/Weils disease, infection from animal faeces)	Provide hygiene instruction within initial Health & Safety briefing. Keep public separated from animals/water except in designated areas. H&S talk at beginning of each pond dipping session. Provide hand washing facilities and antibacterial gel - wash hands before eating and drinking. Provide use of PPE - disposable gloves for anyone with eczema/open wounds on hands. Take radio/mobile and first aid kit- first aider must always be on site All equipment in contact with water to be sterilised after use	2	3	6	yes					
Falling into any water course/caught out by tides	Children, members of public, staff and volunteers	Drowning Hypothermia Cold water shock Secondary drowning (water inhalation) zoonosis	H&S talk at beginning of each session Carry first aid kit and radio/mobile for communication - first aider will always be on site Talk through technique for pond dipping, kneel, hold onto rail etc. Ensure appropriate supervision at all times Wearing of suitable footwear Take throw rope/pole and hoop provided and know how to use it Avoid dangerous areas of the reserve Water bodies are designed and managed to have clear water's edge/delineation. Water bodies risk assessed.	1	5	5	yes					

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Contact with livestock	Children, members of public, staff and volunteers	Injury - kicked, bitten, charged at	Use paths, visitors separated from animals in most areas - If not to have a member of staff to keep a watch out for livestock approaching. Carry first aid kit and radio/mobile for communication - first aider will always be on site.	1	3	3	yes					
Wheelchair use	Children, members of public, staff and volunteers	Loss of control leading to injury	Staff to advise wheelchair users of accessible areas of the site.	2	2	4	yes					
Contact with staff using machinery	Children, members of public, staff and volunteers	Injury from moving parts/debris	Staff to stay aware of visitors and cease work when in close proximity. Machinery dependent work to be carried out at times of low visitation where possible. Risk assessment and emergency procedures documents Provide mobile phone/radio for communication with site office	1	3	3	yes					
Contact with nettles, thistles, sedges, insects	Children, members of public, staff and volunteers	Stings, skin pricks, bites, allergic reactions	Grounds staff maintain areas, and learning staff to inspect activity area Ensure appropriate clothing is worn Verbal instruction to avoid specific plants Carry first aid kit and radio/mobile for communication - first aider will always be on site	3	2	6	yes					

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Contact with moving vehicles/grounds machinery	Children, members of public, staff and volunteers	Injury from contact from machinery/ Vehicles	All machine operators must be informed of site activities All machine operators to adhere to H&S operating requirements Site visit to check area before learning activity takes place Provide first aid kit Risk assessment and emergency procedures documents Provide mobile phone/ radio for communication with site office	1	5	5	yes					
Fruits, berries, fungi	Children, members of public, staff and volunteers	Poisoning, allergic reaction	Safety talk prior to learning session and sanitiser use after session Carry radio/mobile for communication - first aider will always be on site	2	4	8	yes					
Mini beast hunt	Children, members of public, staff and volunteers	Slippery ground, trip hazards	Stout footwear to be worn Safety talk at learning session	2	3	6	yes					
Handling education props e.g. feathers	Children, members of public, staff and volunteers	Bacteria infection	All props treated prior to use with antibacterial treatment - as far as practical to do so Introductory H&S talk Handwashing after learning session	2	1	2	yes					
Contact with dogs	Children, members of public, staff and volunteers	Injury from dogs on site	Verbal instruction at start of session to inform individuals not to initiate contact with dogs on site Where possible carry out learning activities in low visitor areas Ensure supervisor ratio to allow for vigilance with potentially aggressive dogs on leads Carry first aid kit and ensure radio/phone for communication with office	2	4	8	yes					

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Adverse weather	Children, members of public, staff and volunteers	Adverse weather causing heatstroke, sunburn, dehydration, hypothermia, hyperthermia	Check weather forecast beforehand learning activity Ensure appropriate clothing is worn, Recommend use of sun cream, drinking water, Use gazebo for shade in very hot weather	4	1	4	yes					
All activities	Children, members of public, staff and volunteers	Slips, trips and falls	Ensure individuals are wearing appropriate footwear Check decking before learning sessions Verbal instruction and warning as deemed appropriate Ensure appropriate supervision and ratio for activity attendees Grit available for icy conditions	2	3	6	yes					
All activities	Children, members of public, staff and volunteers	Loss of vulnerable individual	Verbal instruction at session start to inform everyone to stay together. Ensure supervisors are wearing high visibility clothing for easier identification. Ensure good ratio of supervisory staff. Indicate a specific meeting point for lost individuals, removing the requirement to cross the road so as to gain access back into the reserve office. Carry radio/mobile phone for easy communication with other staff if help required. Site 'Lost Child' procedure to be followed if any child or vulnerable person is reporting missing	2	4	8	yes					
Contact with plants/sap/nettles/thistles and rushes	Children, members of public, staff and volunteers	Contact with plants/sap/nettles/thistles and rushes; cuts, stings	Ensure appropriate clothing is worn. Verbal instruction to avoid specific plants Staff to check areas before activities Take radio/mobile and first aid kit	2	2	4	yes					
Litter		Litter; glass/can cuts	Site check prior to group visits Litter picking by staff/volunteers as necessary	2	1	2	yes					

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 refs