

CAFRE Risk Assessment

Title:	RSPB Field Teaching and Educational Activities	Completed by:	M Wooster	Completion Date:	22/3/2019	Review Date:	August 2020
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Work Activity & Hazard Identification	Persons at Risk	Level of Initial Risk	Safe System of Work (SSW) / Control Measures	Level of Residual Risk
<p>Traffic on site – collision</p> <p>Accidents resulting in injury to pedestrians from motor vehicles and farm tractors and machinery</p>	RSPB Field teachers, school staff and visiting pupils.	6	Segregation of pedestrians and traffic; separate coach parking where possible; clear signage to the parking area and from the parking to the centre or meeting point. Prior instructions to visiting teachers where road crossing is required or crossing the car park. Groups supervised by Field Teacher and made aware of surroundings. Risk from additional farm traffic highlighted	3
<p>Weather – activities undertaken in hot, cold, wet and stormy weather</p> <p>Hypothermia Heat exhaustion, sun stroke, sunburn</p>	RSPB Field teachers, school staff and visiting pupils	6	Ensure booking information contains clear advice on children wearing and bringing appropriate cold weather clothing and footwear. Avoid prolonged exposure to wind/rain by adapting programme accordingly, the nature trail will be closed in winds in excess of 60 mph. Booking information to advise on the wearing of sunscreen and sun hats during the summer months, (spare hats to be kept on site); on particularly sunny days, keep children in the shade as far as possible. Ensure children have plenty to drink before and during the programme.	3
<p>Bites and stings and allergic reactions</p> <p>Injury or bite from animals Stings and insect bites Allergic reactions: pollen, bee stings, latex, peanuts</p>	RSPB Field teachers, school staff and visiting pupils	6	<p>Field Teacher to issue warning not to pet or touch animals unless appropriate and approved by teacher. Care to be taken where horses are passing. Field Teacher to ensure visitors understand that loud noises can cause animals to move and react suddenly.</p> <p>Instruct children before commencing activities. Request information at time of booking on any child in the visiting party who is known to suffer allergic reactions to any of these substances. Ensure all site teaching staff are aware of emergency procedures and are equipped with mobile phones or radios to facilitate immediate evacuation of any child who suffers a severe allergic reaction.</p>	3

<p>Plant allergy and poison</p> <p>Injuries by coming into contact with dangerous plants and poisoning through digesting plants/berries</p> <p><i>Ragwort poisoning</i></p> <p><i>Bracken</i></p>	<p>RSPB Field teachers, school staff and visiting pupils</p>	<p>6</p> <p>9</p> <p>9</p>	<p>Clear, pre-activity safety talk by Field Teachers including instruction not to put fingers in their mouths after handling plants nor attempt to eat any of the plants. Identify and avoid areas of risk. Supervision of children during activities. All staff to be aware of emergency procedures should ingestion occur. Thorough hand-washing to be ensured as soon as possible after the activity and before eating or drinking.</p> <p>Check for ragwort within teaching areas to be used. If ragwort is present, instruct children not to touch or pick it – particularly as part of First Nature rainbow activity. Thorough hand-washing to be ensured as soon as possible after the activity and before eating or drinking.</p> <p>Avoid children working in bracken during the time that spores are in the air (during July/August/September).</p>	<p>3</p> <p>3</p> <p>3</p>
<p>Slips, trips, falls and scratches</p> <p>Slips, trips or falls and injuries from by falling branches from dangerous trees and uneven surfaces</p> <p>Scratches, punctures, wounds and eye injuries from vegetation</p>	<p>RSPB Field teachers, school staff and visiting pupils</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>Removal of vegetation close to paths and environmental activity area. Instruct children on how to behave in areas where there is particular risk of falling, e.g. tree roots, wet leaves, moss etc. Instruct children not to run, during or between activities and to keep to paths.</p> <p>Remove and prune dangerous trees, bushes and briars.</p> <p>Annual woodland assessment</p>	<p>2</p>
<p>Dangerous diseases from animal droppings, dogs contact with livestock and soil Compost.</p> <p>Toxocariasis</p> <p>E-coli (<i>on sites where livestock are present</i>)</p> <p>Lyme Disease (from ticks)</p> <p>Tetanus (Soil / Compost)</p>	<p>RSPB Field teachers, school staff and visiting pupils</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>Safety instruction from field teachers and supervision during activities. Thorough hand-washing to be ensured as soon as possible after the activity and before eating or drinking.</p> <p>Ensure any wounds are cleaned as quickly as possible. In the event of any ‘dirty cuts’ inform teachers to advise parents to seek medical advice.</p> <p>Avoid working directly in areas where livestock have been present if possible. Field Teachers to provide safety instruction and supervision during activities. Thorough hand-washing to be ensured as soon as possible after the activity and before eating or drinking.</p> <p>The majority of visiting children should already be immunised against tetanus. Ensure any wounds are cleaned as quickly as possible. In the event of any 'dirty cuts' inform teachers to advise parents to seek medical advice.</p>	<p>3</p>

Fire in the classroom/centre. Smoke inhalation, burns	RSPB Field teachers, school staff and visiting pupils	9	Before commencing indoor activities, identify emergency exits and fire extinguishers. Follow CAFRE guidance for evacuation procedures	Medium/Low
Lost Child Lost child through separation from group or through circumstances not related to Field Teaching	Children	6	Instruct children not to wander off and to remain within sight of the group at all times, but advise them of what to do if they should get separated. Teachers and accompanying group supervisors to be reminded of their responsibility to ensure group are together and to check that everyone is present at all times. Observe advised ratio of adults to children. RSPB Field Teachers and CAFRE staff to be aware of the Lost Child Procedure (RSPB Code of Practice 42). Field Teachers to carry mobiles for immediate communication across the campus.	2
Water sampling in constructed wetland Water polluted causing illness if ingested and access to sampling sites not defined causing immersion in ponds	RSPB Field teachers, school staff and visiting pupils	12	Field Teacher to obtain samples for students. Use appropriate dipping equipment at safe access point. Hand washing essential for all participants immediately after activity. Danger from overgrown pools highlighted, and groups to keep to defined paths.	3 Pupils 4 Field Teachers
Mini-beast studies Risk of injury from lifting heavy stones, logs etc. Risk of splinters from logs Injury from shaking trees or using sweep nets	RSPB Field teachers, school staff and visiting pupils	6	Advise children of the risk before starting the activity. Children should be prevented from lifting heavy items without help and supervision. Heavy items should be put back with the same level of care and supervision.	3
		6	Children to be stood well back if teacher is shaking the tree. Children are shown how to shake the tree safely away from others. Watching children to look away in case of flying seeds/dirt etc. Instruction for using sweep nets.	2
Sweeping for insects Cuts and stings	Pupils and staff	4	Areas should be checked for thistles and nettles before use and children advised of the risk. Children must not enter grassy areas of the same height, or taller than they are. Avoid overcrowding.	2

'First Nature' Cuts, stings and abrasions from matching to the 'like labels' and colour eyes. Hay fever allergic reaction (if using sense of smell.) Ragwort poisoning	Pupils	4	Work in an area where there are no, or few, nettles. In introductory talk before the activity make sure all children know which plants can sting or cause minor irritation.	2
		4	Check before carrying out the activity whether any children suffer from hay fever and choose pollen-free leaves etc. for them to sniff.	2
		6	Check for ragwort within teaching areas to be used. If ragwort is present, instruct children not to touch or pick it – particularly as part of First Nature rainbow activity. Thorough hand-washing to be ensured as soon as possible after the activity and before eating or drinking.	2
Games Bumps, bruises and trips	RSPB Field teachers, school staff and visiting pupils	6	Games area checked for potential hazards. Boundaries set for group. Equipment in good condition.	2

<p>Pond dipping</p> <p>Handling and carrying nets and frames – risk of injury to others. Injury to others when using pond-dipping nets.</p> <p>Falling into open water.</p> <p>Blue Green Algae</p> <p><i>Leptospirosis</i> (Weil’s disease)</p>	<p>RSPB Field teachers, school staff and visiting pupils</p>	<p>4</p> <p>12</p> <p>4</p> <p>6</p>	<p>Pond dipping nets must be carried vertically, with mesh bag uppermost Groups should be evenly spaced along the pond edge. The person dipping must check around for others before and during dipping.</p> <p>Have a rescue pole/safety aid available at the dipping area. Check the pond dipping area for loose edging, steep gradients or extreme deep water before and during dipping. Avoid overcrowding on the dipping platform, and where applicable have only one person from a pair at a time. Clear pre-pond-dipping instruction and safety talk before the activity and close supervision during the activity. Do not use the pond if algae are present. Thorough hand-washing to be ensured as soon as possible after the activity and before eating or drinking. All open wounds (and broken skin including eczema) should be covered, and all persons advised to keep hand to face contact at a minimum. Thorough hand washing to be ensured as soon as possible after the activity and before eating or drinking. Ensure teachers are aware of symptoms in case of subsequent illness</p>	<p>2</p> <p>3</p> <p>2</p> <p>2</p>
<p>Bird Watching</p> <p>Hide window falling back – risk of impact or crush injury Hide door - risk of impact or crush injury</p>	<p>RSPB Field teachers, school staff and visiting pupils</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>Bird Hide door and windows to be Opened, secured and closed by Field Teachers.</p>	<p>2</p>
<p>Unsafe behaviour, lack of discipline, poor supervision</p> <p>Safety of the group and individuals compromised</p>	<p>RSPB Field teachers, school staff and visiting pupils</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>Clarify roles and responsibilities with teachers before visit. Teachers and supervising adults to take action to rectify situation. If situation continues the activity will be stopped and session suspended by Field teachers</p>	<p>2</p>

This risk assessment has been prepared for use by ground staff within the Amenity Horticulture Unit. It should form the basic template for the more specific risk assessment completed for skills instruction in this task which should be communicated to students and signed off by the instructor

Risk Evaluation – Hazard Rating x Likelihood (Rating Hazards 1-4, Likelihood 1-5)

Likelihood Hazard	Likely	Probable	Possible	Remote	Improbable
Fatal	20	16	12	8	4
Major Injury	15	12	9	6	3
Minor Injury	10	8	6	4	2
No Injury	5	4	3	2	1

Note score of 6 and below – acceptable risk, no action required