

Activity/area being assessed: Group educational visits
Responsible SCF Health & Safety Officer: Phillip Nichols, Sam Sweeting, Jenny Bettenson
Assessor name: Rachel Hippolyte **Signature of Assessor:** *R Hippolyte*
Date Assessment Undertaken: 11/03/2022 **Date to review:** 11/03/2023

This risk assessment is used for identifying and controlling hazards of activities. A hazard is anything that has the potential to cause harm and a risk is the likelihood of it causing harm and the degree of harm it could cause. This means assessing the possible risk to employees, volunteers, and visitors and specifying the actions necessary to reduce or eliminate the risk.

Hazard	Risk	Severity	Likelihood	Risk Level	Controls in Place and Action Required
Contact with animals	Infection and disease from contact with animals	2	2	4	<p>Children and adults must wash and dry hands using soap, water and paper towels provided before eating and when leaving the farm, especially after contact with animals.</p> <p>After touching any animals, children must not touch their face, in particular mouth, until they have washed their hands.</p> <p>School/group staff must supervise children's handwashing.</p> <p>Open wounds should be covered with a waterproof dressing.</p> <p>Pregnant school/group staff should avoid contact with pregnant sheep, goats or new born lambs and kids.</p> <p>For more information about specific risks see: http://www.face-online.org.uk/face-news/preventing-or-controlling-ill-health-from-animal-contact-at-visitor-attractions http://www.cdc.gov/parasites/toxoplasmosis/ http://www.hse.gov.uk/campaigns/farmsafe/ecoli.htm </p>

	Injury from biting, kicking, trampling	2	2	4	Animals are kept in locked fenced paddocks or enclosures and are only handled with the support of SCF staff or volunteers. Visitors are not permitted to feed animals except on guided tours with SCF staff or volunteers. 'No feeding' signs displayed. School/group staff to maintain discipline of group.
	Allergic reaction to animals or bedding	3	2	6	School/group staff are responsible for supporting individuals within their group and discuss with SCF staff any known allergies prior to the visit. Entry into enclosed areas such as hay barn and animal enclosures is only with permission and under the instruction of SCF staff. Staff to advise that entering enclosed areas such as haybarn, is not suitable for children with allergies such as asthma or hay fever.
Compost/ Manure Heaps	Disease and infections	2	1	2	Access to stores is only permitted under the direction of SCF staff. Anti-bacterial soap water and paper towels are provided to wash hands after contact.
Uneven or slippery surfaces	Injury from slips, trips and falls	2	3	6	Children and adults to wear suitable clothing and footwear for their visit. Farm pathways regularly swept of litter, debris and faeces. Farm staff to inform groups of the uneven surfaces and request that they walk when on the farm Children should not run at the farm and should be supervised by school/group staff at all times.
Gates and Fences	Injury from falls	1	2	2	Children should be supervised by school/group staff at all times and discouraged from climbing on gates.
	Infection, disease or contraction of	2	2	4	Children and adults must wash and dry hands using soap, water and paper towels provided after a tour, before eating and before leaving the farm.

	Corona virus from contact with wooden fences.				Children must be told by SCF staff the risks of germs that can be transferred when visiting the farm. They should be supervised by group/school staff and discouraged from touching their faces during activity.
Farm buildings/ rooms (workshops, tool sheds, feed room, medicine rooms, hay barn)	Injury from tools or dangerous substances	3	2	6	Access is not permitted to workshop and tool sheds without permission and being accompanied by SCF staff. Rooms are kept locked when not in use. 'No entry' sign displayed. Tools stored securely when not in use. Groups only to use tools with permission and after instruction. Wearing PPE as necessary.
	Kitchen- scalding from hot water	3	1	3	Children are not permitted to enter the kitchen unless supervised by SCF staff. Children are not permitted to use the kettle or any other form of heating equipment.
	Kitchen- spreading and contracting of coronavirus through utensils	2	1	2	All utensils are to be washed up by a member of SCF staff and put away in a storage box.
Plants/ Fungi	Scratches, stings/ allergies. Poisoning	3	1	3	Paths and walkways kept clear of hazardous vegetation. Gardening sessions and plant tastings led by trained SCF staff only. School/group staff are responsible for supporting individuals within their group and should discuss with SCF staff any known allergies prior to the visit.

Tree House/ play area	Falling, tripping, splinters	4	2	8	<p>School/ group staff/ adults to supervise use of Tree House at all times and to maintain safe behaviour and appropriate uses.</p> <p>SCF make regular checks of tree house condition; reporting and fixing as necessary.</p>
Fire Pit	Burns, smoke inhalation	3	2	6	<p>Fire is only to be lit by trained SCF staff member or under their supervision.</p> <p>Matches/ lighter should be held or recovered by SCF staff or responsible adult at all times.</p> <p>SCF staff or responsible adult/ volunteer will always be present, until the fire is put out.</p> <p>Matches/ lighters are to be stored in a safe and appropriate location; out of reach of children.</p> <p>Water bucket to be present at all times in case needed.</p> <p>Children to maintain a 1 metre distance from the fire pit at all times.</p>
Wood burning stove in yurt	Burns, smoke inhalation	3	2	6	<p>Guard is kept around stove at all times; children/adults briefed about dangers from chimney.</p> <p>Fire extinguisher, smoke alarm and carbon monoxide alarm in place in yurt and regularly tested.</p> <p>Only SCF staff and responsible adults are to operate wood burning stove.</p> <p>Children to maintain a 1 metre distance from the stove at all times.</p>

Open water	infection from pond water	4	1	4	<p>Groups to bring appropriate child to adult ratio and to encourage safe behaviour around the Farm.</p> <p>Contact with the water and activities around pond (such as pond dipping) only to occur by arrangement and under supervision of SCF staff and volunteers.</p> <p>Hand washing facilities are provided that everyone should use before eating, drinking and/or leaving the farm.</p>
	Hypothermia or drowning	5	2	10	<p>Appropriate and adequate fencing should be installed around all open water. Appropriate signage displayed warning all of hazard.</p> <p>Groups to bring appropriate child to adult ratio and children should be supervised by group staff at all times.</p> <p>Should be a trained member of staff onsite at all times to administer appropriate first aid in the event of a child falling in open water.</p> <p>Contact with the water and activities around pond (such as pond dipping) only to occur by arrangement and under supervision of SCF staff and volunteers.</p>
Bee hive	Allergic reaction from stings	5	1	5	<p>Beehive situated away from public access areas within a gated area and managed by experienced bee keepers.</p> <p>School/group staff should be aware of those who are allergic to stings and bring medical supplies as necessary.</p>
Other farm users	Safeguarding issues	4	3	12	<p>SCF staff and regular volunteers to the Education programme are DBS checked, and operate within the farm Child Protection Policy.</p> <p>SCF staff are identified by farm branded clothing/ lanyard.</p>
	Spreading and contracting of coronavirus between staff and group visitors.	4	2	8	<p>SCF Staff to test regularly when working on the education programme with groups of children.</p>

					<p>All hands to be washed upon entering the farm site when taking public transport and exiting the farm site. A staff member will be available to meet a school to direct them to handwashing and toilet facilities on arrival.</p> <p>No food should be shared between SCF and the visiting group.</p>
	Unable to maintain social distance	4	1	4	<p>Schools/ group visits are required to book visits to the farm so we can ensure that school bubbles do not mix. Maximum of 30 students per school group. Activities with school groups will be contained to certain areas of the farm to ensure minimal opportunity for engagement with the general public.</p>
Weather	Cold, wet or very hot weather	2	2	4	<p>All visitors should be advised to bring appropriate clothing for weather conditions, e.g waterproofs if raining, hat and scarf if cold, sun hat and sunblock if sunny.</p> <p>Shelter areas can be booked to help protect visitors against the elements if required.</p> <p>Non-bookable areas are also available.</p>
Pollen	Hay fever.	1	3	3	<p>School/ group staff should be aware and are responsible of those who suffer from hay fever and make themselves aware of the pollen count prior to the visit if necessary.</p>

PLEASE NOTE:

- *All groups and volunteers must sign in and out of the Farm and attend the Health and Safety briefing before the session commences.
- *Maximum numbers in a group to be negotiated with Farm Manager prior to arrival. Staffing levels will be appropriate to the number in the group to provide suitable supervision.
- *A number of our staff are First Aid trained and any activities involving an open fire will begin with a Health & Safety briefing. All teams are supervised by a member of staff who will be on site for the duration of the tasks. All members of staff are Disclosure and Barring Service checked.



* When carried out safely, an open fire can offer children an acceptable risk activity to enhance their learning opportunities and own coping strategies. If we only provide a sanitised environment and risk adverse activities, children will not explore and discover the world for themselves, they will only experience a safety conscious environment. However safeguards must be in place to ensure the activity is at an appropriate level for their abilities and understanding without turning the activity into a safety first pursuit.

Severity Rating	Likelihood Rating	Risk Severity (Severity x Likelihood)
5 – Death/permanent disability 4 – Serious injury/long term sickness 3 – Temperamental disability 2 – Required medical attention 1 – Minor injury e.g. bruise, graze	5 – Will most certainly happen 4 – Highly likely to happen 3 – Possible 2 – Might/less likely 1 – Remote possibility	16-25 – Unacceptable, requires immediate action 10-15 – High priority for action required 6-9 – Medium priority for action required 3-5 – Low priority for action required, examine the practicality of change 1-2 – Low risk, no further action needed