

Stokehill Risk Assessment

You are welcome to use this risk assessment as a **basis** from which to construct an appropriate version for your own school group. The likelihood and impact of some hazards will vary according to the composition of your group and you may wish to add additional potential hazards that you can foresee for your pupils.

What are the hazards?	Who might be harmed and how?	Precaution
Moving vehicles	Visitors -physical injuries - falls from getting in and out of cars, mini bus or coach. Visitors struck by vehicles in lane or delivering to the farm	Coach drops off in lane. Staff to maintain proper control on the bus/coach. Children stay on bus until instructed to get off.
Public access/roads vehicle movements	Visitors passing from one part of farm to another struck by vehicles	Vigilance when pupils on track and crossing lane. teacher to supervise
Lost or disorientated pupils	All visitors - wander into unsafe areas	Regular head counts. Signage. Ensure pupils are not separated from the group. teachers to monitor
Farm vehicles and machinery (not part of a demonstration)	All visitors - physical injury struck by moving vehicles or machinery	There will be no farm vehicle movements during farm visit. If contractors carrying out essential work, teachers will be briefed at the start of the visit.
Workshop	All visitors - physical injury from slips, trips and falls	Prevent access to workshop - it will be locked.
Uneven ground, steep paths, slippery slopes	Visitors on nature trails, farm walks - slips, trips and falls	Walk and check route for hazards in advance. Warn visitors before setting off. Teachers to remind pupils and to check that they are wearing appropriate footwear. Pace to be kept appropriate for group.

Manure & compost heaps	All visitors - contamination with manure.	Supervision. Verbal warning to avoid and teacher to monitor
Ponds and stream zoonoses - Weil's disease	All visitors - drowning; contamination with infective agent from contact with water.	Prevent access to stream. Verbal warning to avoid pond. Supervision. Washing facilities.
Fences and gates; Electric fences	Visitors physical injuries - cuts, grazes etc. Contamination of visitors from touching farm animals or contaminated surfaces followed by ingestion of micro -organisms; electric shock from touching live fences.	Fences & gates are maintained and gates only are cleaned if necessary to prevent contamination with manure. Provide hand washing facilities (See Industry Code of Practice). Information & signage. Double fencing. Cover barbed/electric wire at viewing point. Switch off fence.
Barns and yards - bales pallets, boxes etc	All visitors - struck by falling objects, injuries due to climbing/falling.	Prevent access. Prohibit climbing on stacks Remove hazardous objects, tripping hazards etc. Store wheels/tyres etc safely.
Shearing activities Electricity zoonoses - such as orf, E coli O157, Cryptosporidiosis, etc	Visitors and staff/helpers at shearing demonstration; electric shock or burns; tripping on wires; contamination with manure/dung.	Maintenance of electrical equipment & systems. Use RCDs on sheep shears. Regular cleaning of area. Designated viewing areas. Wires out of passageways. Washing facilities.
Static machinery (tractors, harvesters, cultivation equipment, ATVs)	Visitors climbing on and playing with machinery displays - physical injury from contact with dangerous parts e.g. spikes or falls from height.	Static machinery must be supervised. Keys must be removed. Remove/protect sharp edges & dangerous parts. Signage. Park machinery safely
Electrical equipment - Saw benches, heavy plant	All visitors - physical injury from contact with dangerous parts.	Equipment stored or locked away and not used during visit/event. Restrict access. Fit guards to those on display. Disconnect power supply and make safe.

<p>Manure and faecal seepage -E coli 0157</p>	<p>Visitors feeding, petting or stroking sheep, lambs, horses, or contact with their dung, contaminated surfaces fences, & pens; Visitors viewing animals or entering livestock sheds walking through manure; touching manure on gates/ walls/ partitions contamination on shoes, laces, pushchair wheels; slips, trips and falls.</p> <p>Faeces or faecal material may be present in soil, on grass, farm machinery, fences, buildings, water courses, footwear and clothing as well as on the hides and in the saliva of livestock.</p>	<p>Washing facilities include Liquid soap, paper towels, hot and cold running water for individuals, cold running water for simultaneous use by larger groups</p> <p>Cold running water will suffice in summer because groups will be supervised to wash for the appropriate time (2 minutes)</p> <p>If visitors touch livestock or fencing they must wash their hands. Supervision by school staff must be provided.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read and understand the advice in the industry Code of Practice, and confirm that the control measures provided at the site match the recommendations in the industry Code of Practice. • The best barrier to infection is to avoid contact with faeces or faecal material in the environment. This should be clearly explained and supervised. • Ensure supervising staff understand the need to make sure that the children wash, their hands thoroughly, using running water after contacting animals and before eating and after removing footwear. Sanitising gel is not a substitute for adequate washing of hands though it may be a useful addition. • Brief pupils that they must not eat, drink or chew anything (including sweets) • Explain to pupils why they must wash their hands thoroughly after contact with the animals and before leaving the farm • Ensure appropriate clothing that can be removed and washed after use at 60°C. Clothing worn on farm visits should be separated from other clean clothing. • Wear appropriate footwear. • Cover cuts, grazes etc on children's hands are covered with a waterproof dressing. • An explanatory letter for accompanying groups is should be distributed where farm visits take place.
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Sheep,(rams) horses,	<p>Visitors entering animal pens; feeding the animals; herding animals; performing simple farmyard tasks, contamination with dung trampled; crushed; bitten; kicked; butted.</p>	<p>Fields containing these animals are not entered. School staff to supervise. Fingers or hands must not be put through the gates or fencing. Warn visitors of the dangers of walking behind an animal. Explain to visitors that sudden sounds or movement may frighten animals.</p>
Poultry - Psittacosis (dust from faeces), Chlamydia psittaci;	<p>Visitors petting hens, chicks; feeding the chickens pecked, scratched.</p>	<p>Pupils are not allowed to touch the chickens and will be asked not to put their faces close to the poultry house</p>
<p>Pregnant Women during the lambing season</p> <p>Potential infections include chlamydiosis (enzootic abortion of ewes - EAE), toxoplasmosis, listeriosis and Q Fever</p>	<p>Some infections can be passed from sheep and other animals (including cows and goats) to humans. If a pregnant woman becomes infected, it could harm her and her unborn baby's health. These infections are uncommon in sheep and very rare in humans. The number of human pregnancies affected by contact with sheep is extremely small. Although the risks are low, pregnant women should still avoid close contact with sheep during the lambing season which runs from January to April, although the risk is present at other times of the year.</p>	<p>To avoid the possible risk of infection, pregnant women are advised that they should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> do not help deliver lambs do not milk ewes avoid contact with aborted (miscarried) or newborn lambs, and with the afterbirth, birthing fluids or contaminated materials, such as bedding ensure your partner and family washes thoroughly after contact with ewes that are lambing clothing worn during lambing should be washed separately from other washing <p>Seek medical advice if you have a high temperature or flu-like symptoms or you think you may have got an infection from a farm environment</p>
Farm pets – dogs and cats	<p>All visitors, especially children – bitten; scratched; toxoplasmosis through stroking, petting.</p>	<p>Keep pets indoors away from visitors.</p>
Animal feeds	<p>All visitors – ingestion of feeds or contamination with micro organisms.</p>	<p>Prevent access to feed stores. Supervision of feeding animals Washing facilities.</p>
Flora and fauna	<p>Visitors on farm walk or nature trail – ingestion of poisonous fruits or berries etc.</p>	<p>Check routes beforehand. Supervision. Warn visitors before setting off. Avoid known hazards on route.</p>

Lyme Disease	<p>Lyme disease is a potentially serious bacterial infection transmitted via tick bites. Ticks are common in forested areas, heathland, moorland and suburban parks. The risk of contracting Lyme Disease depends upon many factors including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prevalence of <i>Borrelia burgdorferi</i> in an area. • Presence of suitable habitat for the ticks. • Presence of other hosts e.g. deer, sheep, pheasants. • Time of year. • Risk of exposure to tick. • Length of time the tick has to feed after becoming attached. 	<p>Minimise the time spent in the higher risk habitats during late spring/summer or in the autumn.</p> <p>Careful choice of teaching sites to move away from locations animals congregate.</p> <p>Taking appropriate precautions (e.g. clothing or insect repellent) when in higher risk areas or when doing higher risk activities in late spring/summer or the autumn.</p> <p>Checking for ticks after carrying out fieldwork in areas that pose a risk during late spring/summer or the autumn.</p> <p>Prompt removal of any ticks found using appropriate tick removal advice.</p> <p>Informing all participants of the Risks before, during and after the activity.</p>
Chemical and veterinary products	All visitors – ingestion of harmful chemicals, breathing vapour or skin; contamination.	Chemical and veterinary products are locked away in a suitable store. Access to store prohibited.