

THE ECOLOGY CENTRE RISK ASSESSMENT



Venue...The Ecology Centre and offsite locations **Dates 2016 Telephone.....**01592-891567

The Ecology Centre has been designed for use by a wide range of people. We aim to offer a place of safety where people feel welcome and able to enjoy activities without being over burdened by rules and regulations. We aim to cultivate a culture of safety and all The Ecology Centre staff are trained to reduce risk for groups and individuals. Many activities are rated in the medium risk category due to many groups unfamiliarity with the countryside. As our first measure of risk avoidance all groups will receive a general briefing at the beginning of every class or event covering basic safety procedures and rules.

Responsible Persons – key emergency contact during programme (name, contact details)...Claire Reid, Julie Samuel...01592-891567

Police Station/ Emergency contact details.....Non-emergency 101, Emergency 999

Give careful consideration to specific hazards associated with the following issues (trivial hazards shouldn't be included):

Activity	People at Risk	Hazard & possible implication	Risk Category	Minimum Controls	Risk after controls
Minibeast hunting/handling	Staff and groups	Irritation to anaphylactic shock where allergy is present. Lyme's disease.	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Group briefings and risk disclosure Knowledge of site if tick rich Tick briefing to be given/available 	Low
Mini beast Activities- Terrain and surroundings	Staff and groups	Slips and falls leading to injury or cuts.	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Site checks Group briefings First aid competence First aid kit carried 	Low
Activities in public parks – child protection risk from strangers	Groups	Abduction & abuse	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff vigilance No child to be unaccompanied during visit 	Low
Activities in public parks – contact with dogs and dog faeces.	Staff and groups	Bites, injury Illness, parasite infection	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Group briefings Site checks Group leaders to act proactively if dogs off the lead pose a risk Knowledge of site Access to handwashing facilities or antibacterial hand gel. 	Low
Pond and River Activities- Water, banks and currents.	Staff and groups	Slips and falls leading to injury, drowning and	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wash hands immediately after activities Group briefings 	Low

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		death Weils disease, E-coli etc.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff vigilance First aid competence 	
Equipment- Nets, trays etc	Staff and groups	Poke in eye or body, trips and falls, injuries and potential drowning through distraction or mishandling equipment	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An adequate ratio of nets to participants to avoid crowding at waters edge. Group briefings Group management and supervision 	Low
Pond Creatures- Diving beetle larvae, mosquitoes, midges etc	Staff and groups	Bits, stings and allergic reactions, shock.	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Group briefings Knowledge of site Avoid contact 	Low
Bushcraft activities - Firelighting, campfires.	Staff and groups	Burns and scolds.	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Group safety briefing Staff vigilance First aid kit carried Access to water 	Low
Fossil walks (see also rock pool guddles)	Staff and groups	Cuts from handling rocks Fragments of rock in the eye Injury to fingers from use of tools	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Group briefing Staff vigilance Tools used suitable for age/ability range First aid competence and kit. 	Low
Marine creatures	Staff and groups	Bites, stings and allergic reactions to shock.	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Group briefings and supervision. Knowledge of site. Knowledge of medical history/condition 	Low
Rock Pool Guddles- Slippery wet rocks, sharp edges, seaweed, tide and waves.	Staff and groups, particularly young children and elderly	Cuts, injuries, drowning and death.	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tide Times checked before visit is booked Group briefings Site knowledge Adequate supervision Knowledge of tides and sea conditions 	Low
Night Walks- including bat watching in low light.	Staff and groups	Trips and falls leading to injury. Losing people and splitting up.	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Site choice and staff competence Group briefing Close supervision of group Carry torches and extra batteries 	Low
Sensory Walks- Plant toxins, stings from nettles, hogweeds etc	Staff and groups	Irritation, allergy, poisoning.	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Briefing on what to touch or pick Supervision by competent persons Site knowledge 	Low

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Willow Weaving and wild art - Branches and twigs.	Staff and groups	Eye injury Trips	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Briefing on what to pick or touch Space group out Ensure cut ends are blunt not pointed Staff vigilance 	Low
Blindfold games/Outdoor games	Staff and groups	Increased risk of fall/trip/collision; cuts, bruising to breaks and strains	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clear briefing Close supervision Site selection 	Low
Talking Tours and Walks	Staff and groups	Getting lost	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff to Pre-visit site and allow time for familiarisation with site, location and facilities Meet-up point to be decided with group prior to walk starting. 	Low
Face Painting- Toxic paints, infectious skin conditions	Staff and groups	Allergies and irritation to skin and eyes. Transfer of infections	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Check with parents/guardians if any allergies are present first. Use hypoallergenic paints and avoid eyes Keep sponges and brushes clean Clean in soap and water between each person 	Low
Open Public Events- Fairs and Fetes	Staff and Public	Injury from displays, collapsing props or shelters	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure appropriate construction and anchorage Adequate emergency planning Properly marked exits and assembly points Proper levels of staffing of events 	Low
Wild foods and fungal forays.	Staff and groups	Poisoning to death in severe cases.	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Knowledge of correct preparation of food items Group briefings and supervision Expert knowledge of fungi and wild food species for the leader where appropriate. 	Medium
Outreach activities- Alternative curriculum groups	Staff and groups	Reportable injury	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Correct staff/pupil ratio Close supervision Full briefings for pupils and accompanying staff members. Ability to terminate session if required 	Low
Practical activities using tools	Staff and Groups	Eye injuries, cuts from tools, slips and trips leading to injuries	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clear briefing Close supervision Adequate ratios 	Medium

Activity	People at Risk	Hazard & possible implication	Risk Category	Minimum Controls	Risk after controls
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clear safety briefing prior to tools being used • Tools correctly maintained • Work suitable for age/ability range • PPE if required • First aid kit and first aider present. 	

Completed by.....Date.....

Confirmed by.....Date.....