

Countryside Services Risk Assessment – Country Park Outdoor Environmental Activities with Schools and groups

This generic risk assessment is to evaluate the safety of Education Ranger led outdoor activities with Schools and groups of all ages and abilities in country parks. This generic risk assessment is to be used in conjunction with the Education Ranger Risk Assessment Record Sheet 1 on which the dynamic, on the day conditions are to be considered and recorded.

The following Risk Matrix has been used to identify the level of residual risk:

SEVERITY ↑ ----- ----- LIKELIHOOD →	5	10	15	20	25	17-25 UNACCEPTABLE Stop activity and make immediate improvements 10-16 TOLERABLE Look to improve within specified timescale 5-9 ADEQUATE Look to improve at next review 1-4 ACCEPTABLE No further action, but ensure controls maintained
	4	8	12	16	20	
	3	6	9	12	15	
	2	4	6	8	10	
	1	2	3	4	5	

Outdoor Activity	Hazard	Potential harm	People at risk	Current control measures	Residual risk	Action plan
All	Untrained or unsuitable activity leader	Injury Abuse	Children, vulnerable adults	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Education Rangers to have advanced DBS checked Adults and child bar. Education Ranger inducted in accordance with CS Environmental Activity Leaders Guidance note 14 New Education Rangers to work shadow an experienced leader on at least three sessions before supervising a group. 	4	
All – but notably pond dipping/river	Contact with soil and water borne	Leptospirosis Tetanus Stomach	All participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> School/group to be issued with the pre-visit safety information sheet at the booking stage Safety briefing given by Ranger re-iterating the precautions 	4	

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studies and Rocks, Soils and Fossils	diseases	upsets		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> identified in the information sheet Education Ranger to remind group of precautions regarding open cuts on the day Reminding adults and children to wash hands thoroughly after the activities 		
All – but notably pond dipping/river studies	Fall into water	Hypothermia Drowning	All participants - particularly children under five years old	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rangers to select appropriate access avoiding areas with steep banks, sudden drops, hazardous flows etc. Pond and river studies avoided in extremely cold conditions Ranger to assess water conditions on the day– activity to be changed if necessary. Ranger to give safety briefing to group prior to activity Adult helpers assigned to ensure supervision - For pond dipping where group is being split up, an adult helper must be tasked supervise each sub group. For river studies no child is to enter the water 	4	
All	Slips, trips, falls	Bruises, minor cuts and grazes	All	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On the day dynamic risk assessment to evaluate conditions Park maintenance and inspection procedures to ensure general on-site safety 	4	
All – but notably orienteering and Survival	Lost children	Distress, injury Abduction	All – notably younger children	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children organised into suitable sized groups Under 8s must have an adult supervisor with them Agree time for completion and/or signal for return 	4	
All – but notably Mini Beast hunting and pond dipping	Contact with insects	Stings, bites, allergic reactions	All – notably allergy sufferers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pre- visit information sheet alerts school/group. School/group are responsible for providing suitable first aid cover for their group – as stated on booking form. Education Ranger to carry mobile phone. 	4	
All	Contact with dogs - faeces mainly dog (possibly cattle)	Dog bite Toxocara Ecoli	All – especially young children	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pre-visit information sheet advises leaders to ask children not to pet dogs – backed up by Ranger on day. Where possible activity is not undertaken in areas where 	4	

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	and sheep)			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> livestock has been kept within past 3 weeks. Children briefed by Ranger not to touch animal droppings. Schools are to ensure appropriate hygiene for group. Children advised to wash hands after activity 		
All – Notably World of Plants and Sensory Explorers and Survival	Contact with poisonous plants – notably hemlock; woody nightshade	Nettle rash Skin irritation Poisoning if eaten	All – notably children	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ranger to advise children not to put any plant in their mouths. Poisonous plants are identified when encountered as part of learning experience. 	4	
All – Notably World of Plants and Sensory Explorers and Survival	Exposure to pollen	Hay fever Allergy		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pre- visit information sheet alerts school/group. School/group are responsible for providing suitable first aid cover for their group – as stated on booking form. Education Ranger to carry mobile phone. 	4	
Plants and Sensory Explorers and Survival	Exposure to pollen	Hay fever Allergy		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pre- visit information sheet alerts school/group. School/group are responsible for providing suitable first aid cover for their group – as stated on booking form. Education Ranger to carry mobile phone. 	4	
All	Faulty equipment	Various injuries	All users	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ranger to check activity equipment prior to use Small/medium pond nets to be provided for children 	2	
All	Other visitors	Traffic accident Abuse	All – notably children	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> General vigilance and group control 	4	
Nature Tots	Contamination of refreshments	Stomach upset – food poisoning	All notably children	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In date, pre- packed food only to be used as refreshments. Observe good hygiene – children asked to wash hands before eating 	3	
Nature Tots	Food allergens	Allergic reaction	All	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Only Parent/guardian to give food to child 	4	

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Survival	As above but also increased risk of contact with soil, plants/animals plus falling branches in a more free form activity setting	eye pokes strike to head cuts Child getting separated	All	Evaluation of suitable site for activity Risk assessment Must have shadowed previous survival session before taking leadership	4	
Practical conservation tasks	Varied and inexperienced workers Varied tasks, tools and environments	Various	As above	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leader to have undergone CS leadership-training & be deemed competent in particular task. • CS Working with Volunteers guidance note 12. • Specific risk assessment must be undertaken for this activity with special consideration if under 18's involved 	4	
All	Extreme weather – notably flooding, high winds, hot sun	Strike by falling branch, fall into floodwater	All – notably children	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dynamic risk assessment on the day • Activities near trees to be avoided when twigs being blown from trees. • Vigilance to prevent harmful sun exposure/heat exhaustion. 	4	
Rocks, Soils and Fossils (not in quarry)	Slip, trips and falls	Bruises, minor cuts and grazes	All	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paths and routes of Quarry/Rocks and Fossils Walk clear, accessible and appropriate for the age/ability of the group 	4	
	Faulty equipment	Various injuries	All users	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ranger to check activity equipment prior to e 	2	
Fossil hunting (in quarry)	Landslip, falling rocks Sloping access	Sprains and fractures	All	<p>No access to quarry after periods of prolonged heavy rain or recent signs of any sliding debris.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of suitable footwear (with tread) to be discussed with 	4	Investigate if a geotechnical evaluation

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	<p>path with potential for loose aggregate</p> <p>Weather- rain, ice etc.</p> <p>Flying rock debris/trapped fingers</p> <p>Wandering off</p> <p>Accident in difficult to access location</p>	<p>Bruises, minor cuts, rock dust or fragments in eyes</p>		<p>school/group and confirmed at booking</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Activity not suitable for pre-school age groups • Access quarry working in groups of 3 with max of 15 students in quarry at any one time • Ranger to brief groups on how to access and to be cautious re loose stones etc. Children to access quarry with hands free • Ranger to transport equipment into quarry with adult help • Safety helmets to be worn in quarry. Goggles/glasses to be worn when using hammers. • Prior instructions and demonstrations by education Ranger of safe use of tools • Ranger leader will need mobile phone and quarry road key. In event of accident in quarry. Teacher/group leader stays with casualty and Education Ranger goes to quarry gate to direct ambulance etc • Ranger to take first aid equipment as back up to school/group's provision 		<p>schedule is needed</p>

Weather conditions on the day to be evaluated and recorded on Education Ranger Risk Assessment Record Sheet 1. Copies kept by person concerned for a period of three years.