

Carrs Farm

Hazard identification for the primary school farm walks and education activities

(For guidance only. Risk assessments remain the responsibility of teachers for specific school visits.)

Activity	Hazard	Risk and to whom	Suggested control measures
Farm walk and general use of the farm.	Unmade single track/bridleway to and from farm.	Injury from vehicles. All staff and students and local residents.	Limit vehicle size used for visits. Start visits at the most suitable point.
	Access to and from the vehicle on Wear Bank.	Injury from vehicles on the road. All staff and students.	Close supervision of students from vehicle to start of walk. Clear verbal instructions to students. Awareness of other road users.
	Exposed weather conditions.	Risk of hypothermia in exposed conditions. All staff and students.	Advise about correct clothing. Monitor weather conditions.
	Uneven ground (wet in some areas).	Potential injury. All staff and students.	Clear communication to students to improve awareness. Suitable footwear advised. Awareness and assessment of weather conditions prior to visit.
	Wooden bridges and stiles.	Potential injury as a result of slips/trips/falls. All staff and students.	Clear instructions to students to improve awareness.
	Wooden benches in picnic areas.	Potential injury from splintered wood and exposed nails. All staff and students.	Carefully select rest areas. Warn students.
	Tree branches.	Potential risk of injury. All staff and students.	Warn students. Clear instructions about the need for caution and care.

Farm walk and general use of the farm (cont)	Water levels in stream.	Potential of falls into the water. All staff and students.	Clear route delineation. Limit access as appropriate following assessment of the conditions. Clear instructions to students.
	Gorse bushes.	Potential risk of injury from spikes. All staff and students.	Clear route avoiding bushes. Clear guidance to students.
	Farm machinery.	Potential risk of injury. All staff and students.	Close supervision near machinery. Constant awareness of changing situations. Clear instructions.
	Livestock.	Potential for injury from unpredictable/unsettled behaviour due to disturbance. All staff and students.	Awareness. Clear avoidance instructions. No dogs. Make an inward-facing circle if attacked.
Investigating the factors affecting farming	Contamination from soil.	Potential risk of contamination from soil. All staff and students.	Wash hands after fieldwork complete.
Early settlers in Weardale – how did they live?	Contamination from soil.	Potential risk of contamination from soil. All staff and students.	Wash hands after fieldwork complete.
	Wood and stone handling.	Potential injury from handling. All staff and students.	Warn students about the activity and supervise.
	Fire.	Potential risk of burning. All staff and students.	Supervise lighting of fires (if undertaken). Sand buckets in place to extinguish fires.

Early settlers in Weardale – how did they live? (cont)	Wild food.	Potential for illness.	Clear instructions to students not to eat any foraged food unless directed by a teacher in charge.
Woodland mini-beasts	Tree branches.	Potential risk of injury. All staff and students.	Warn students. Clear instructions about the need for caution and care.
	Contamination from soil.	Potential risk of contamination from soil. All staff and students.	Wash hands after fieldwork complete.
Stream mini-beasts	Working in the river.	Potential risk of injury. All staff and students.	Warn students about conditions. Only work in low flow conditions.
Celebrating hay meadows	Contamination from soil.	Potential risk of contamination from soil. All staff and students.	Wash hands after fieldwork complete.
A sensory walk	Contamination from soil.	Potential risk of contamination from soil. All staff and students.	Wash hands after fieldwork complete.
Artists and poets in the landscape	Unsuitable location for work.	Potential for groups to be unsupervised. Students.	Choose a suitable location to work where all groups are visible. Clear instructions that all groups should be within a visible radius when working.