



Forestry England

Example risk assessment

For self-led group visit to Forestry England site



This sample risk assessment highlights some of the potential hazards that you might want to include in your risk assessment. The actual hazards will depend on the site you are visiting, the group you are bringing and the activities you are doing.

We strongly recommend that you visit the forest before you bring your group, so that you can correctly identify the hazards, and work out how you are going to manage the risk.

You do not have to write a risk assessment in this format, but we recommend that you include the hazards, how you are going to control them and who is responsible for each of the controls.

In this risk assessment, the hazards are classified according to their level of risk before and after controls are implemented:

Low Risk: Something which may result in minor damage or slight harm (i.e. scratch or bruise)	Medium Risk: Something which may result in a significant loss/damage or major injury (broken bone or other injury, which results in person being taken to hospital for treatment)	High Risk: Something which may result in extensive damage, multiple major injuries or death
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Risk assessment written by:

Date:

Signed:



Risk assessment - School name			
Visit	Beaver going to Strumpshaw Fen	Directions to forest Shared with parents and guardians	
Activity	Den Building		
Grid ref / postcode	NR12 4HS		
Date of risk assessment	27 June 2023	Date of activity	2 July 2023
Emergency contact	Contact number for local Forestry England office, in case of emergencies	Group leader mobile	07596406466
Emergency phone:	999	Nearest payphone	None
Emergency procedure	Leaders to respond first then contact staff on site		

The Hazard	What might	Potential	Controls	Level of	Responsibility
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	happen?	level of risk		risk after controls	
Uneven / slippery ground	Slips, trips and falls	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Safety talk to be given at start of activity - Recommend no running - Participants put into groups when necessary for activities & supervised by an adult 	Low	Pre-visit site check carried out by group leader
Vehicles, mountain bikes, horses	Collision with pedestrians	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Safety talk to be given at start of activity - mention car parks, roads, forest trails - Cross roads together as a group - Warn group of oncoming vehicles, bikes and horses 	Low	Group leader to give safety talk Participants divided into groups with adults who will manage behaviour
Falling branches	Head or other injury	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cancel visit in excessive wind 	Low	Group leader to check site and weather prior to visit
Dog poo / mud / dirty hands / litter	Infections, cuts etc	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provide wet wipes and water - Ensure hand cleaning before lunch and at end of session 	Low	Group leader to provide wet wipes and water

The Hazard	What might	Potential	Controls	Level of	Responsibility
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	happen?	level of risk		risk after controls	
Insects, wasps, plants and fungi	Possible allergic reaction, poisoning, choking	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Find out about known allergic reactions within group- Warn children about wasps- Discuss poisonous plants and fungi - warn children not to eat anything or put fingers in mouth- Everyone to wash hands before lunch- Carry antiseptic wipes	Low	Group leader to find out about allergies and do safety talk
Medical conditions	Asthma, diabetes, epilepsy etc	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Find out about known conditions before session	Medium	Group leader to take responsibility for medical conditions of children and to bring equipment eg inhalers
Lost children	Getting lost, panic attack, potential abduction	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Group stays together at all times- Adult at front and back of group- Count children regularly	Low	Group leader to do safety talk at start of session Adults to count and check children throughout visit

The Hazard	What might	Potential	Controls	Level of	Responsibility
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	happen?	level of risk		risk after controls	
Weather (hot, cold, wet)	Sunstroke, sunburn, hypothermia, cold	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Ensure children wearing appropriate clothes- Ensure children wearing sun cream- Check that children are warm enough - encourage lots of jumping around etc if cold	Low	Group leader to ensure children are appropriately dressed Adults to keep an eye on children's condition