

Murton Park – Dark Ages Village Activity Day Risk Assessment

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Information

This assessment covers the activities undertaken within the Danelaw Dark Age Village. Reference has been made to current HASPEV guidelines. School's visiting the site are required to conduct their own risk assessments taking into account the age, needs and capabilities of the children. Our staff work in conjunction with teachers to supervise activities and manage risks appropriately. Activities generally take place between 10.00 – 15.00.

Events are generally held for Key stage 3 – 6 i.e., children who are 7 – 11 years old.

Task / area assessed	Hazard identified	Who might be harmed & how?	Control measures implemented to control this hazard	Additional controls required	Overall level of risk (H/M/L)
Weather conditions	Slipping & tripping hazards / extreme heat or cold	Staff and visitors injured or made ill by site conditions	Weather conditions are assessed by staff each day and appropriate action is taken to deal with adverse conditions, including cancelling events if deemed necessary. Water and sunscreen are provided in hot weather.		L
Excess numbers of visitors	Inadequate supervision / overcrowding	Increased risk of accidents and injuries	There is a limit of 64 children working in a single group or a maximum of four activity groups.		L
Supervision of children	Inadequate supervision	Children injured	School group leaders and their assistants are responsible for supervising children at all times on site. Murton Park provide a leader for the day plus assistants, and they instruct and guide certain activities and deliver pre-start briefings.		L
Fire safety	Fire breaking out	All people in area at risk of serious injury	Staff carry out daily checks ensuring that exits from buildings are clear, adequate signage is in place and that any fire hazards are removed. Where fire alarms are installed in buildings, they are tested weekly. Fire extinguishers are provided, and these are regularly checked. Staff are trained in site fire procedures. Briefings on fire procedures are given to visiting school staff.		L
Alighting from buses or minibuses	Other vehicles moving in area	Serious or fatal injury if struck by a vehicle	Buses are parked as near to the entrance to the site as possible, away from the general public car park. The Murton Park Day leader and school staff supervise children disembarking.		L
Children running around site	Slips and trips	Children injured	School staff are briefed on arrival of the potential for slip and trip hazards around site and of the need for children to not run.		L

Task / area assessed	Hazard identified	Who might be harmed & how?	Control measures implemented to control this hazard	Additional controls required	Overall level of risk (H/M/L)
Water in ditches and nearby pond	Children falling in	Children drowning or soaked and upset / shocked	Activities take place away from water hazards. Signs and fences are in place to reduce potential for falling in water. Group leaders are briefed on the potential hazards.	Fencing is to be improved in some areas and the main ditch is to be drained.	L
Hands-on display items	Entrapment	Crushed / bruised fingers	Children are briefed before any hands-on activities and are supervised throughout.		L
Display items	Items falling and striking children	Injury	'Do not touch' signs and barriers are used where appropriate. Children are always supervised.		L
First aid provision	Injuries requiring attention	Injuries exacerbated if inadequate provision	There is adequate provision of first aid equipment and staff with first aid training. First aid provision is covered in the pre-start briefing.		L
Out of bounds areas	Various potential hazards	Children injured	Children are instructed on site rules at the start of the day. Children are constantly supervised. Children are accompanied if requiring the toilet outside scheduled times.		L
General site	Slips and trips	Children and adults injured in a fall	Staff do daily site checks and deal with significant hazards. Safety rules are communicated to school staff and children. Children are always supervised.		L
Guard duty	Slips and trips	Children injured in a fall	Children are warned of potentially slippery surfaces and are constantly supervised. The trackway is kept clear of obstacles.		L
	Collision	Children injured colliding with each other	The 'Charge' drill is closely supervised.		L
	Play fights using fake spears and shields	Contact injuries	Children are given clear instructions and are always supervised. There is no actual fighting. Spears have very blunt tips		L
Farming / field tilling	Use of hoe / field tool	Contact injuries	Use of equipment is demonstrated by the activity leader before the tools are handed out (including instruction to keep the tool head below the knees and all to work in the same direction in a single line). Activity is supervised.		L
	Ingestion of soil	Ill health	Activity is supervised and children are instructed to keep their hands away from their mouth.		L
	Extreme weather	Sunburn / cold	Checks are carried out to ensure children are dressed appropriately and the activity is suspended if conditions are not suitable or safe.		L

Task / area assessed	Hazard identified	Who might be harmed & how?	Control measures implemented to control this hazard	Additional controls required	Current level of risk (H/M/L)
Collecting firewood	Running / trip hazards	Children injured in a fall	Children are instructed to walk.		L
	Children messing about with firewood	Injuries from being struck	Activity is supervised. Wood pile is checked each day by staff.		L
Contact with stinging plants or insects	Allergic reaction	Ill health	Details of children with significant allergies are passed on by school leaders before the visit. Children are advised to be careful near stinging plants.		L
Flour grinding and bread making	Slips and trips in Long House	Children injured in a fall	Children are supervised in the Long House.		L
	Nipping fingers on Quern stone	Finger injury	Activity is supervised and children are briefed. Children hold their hands behind their back unless turning the stone. The handle is removed when flour is being collected.		L
	Flour allergy	Ill health	Allergy sufferers are known in advance. Children are warned not to put their fingers in their mouth before washing their hands.		L
Open fire in hearth	Contact with flames / smoke	Burns / ill health	The fire is monitored and kept to a manageable size. Long House is always supervised, and children are instructed to keep away from the fire. Materials placed on fire are carefully checked.		L
Clay work	Bench / table collapsing	Children injured in a fall	Staff regularly check the condition of furniture.		L
	Allergic reaction	Skin irritation	Visiting parties are asked to provide information on any children with specific allergies and potential hazard is covered in briefing.		L
	Ingestion of clay	Ill health / choking	Children warned of hazard during briefing and supervised constantly.		L
Weaving	Allergic to wool	Ill health	Information on children with allergies is known in advance.		L
	Use of carding combs	Cuts	Combs are low risk and use is demonstrated. Activity is supervised.		L
House talk in Long House	Dark room	Injury from a trip	Children are instructed to take care and move slowly.		L
	Open fire	Burns / smoke inhalation	Two adults supervise the fire while children enter the room. Fire is monitored and controlled.		L

Task / area assessed	Hazard identified	Who might be harmed & how?	Control measures implemented to control this hazard	Additional controls required	Current level of risk (H/M/L)
Raid	Collisions	Children injured	The activity is supervised. The shield wall is maintained in good order. Communication is maintained with the raider.		L
Lunch time	Boisterous activity	Children injured	Some degree of supervision is maintained.		L
	Allergies	Illness	Children bring their own packed lunches and schools manage pupils with significant allergies that could be affected by other pupils' food.		L
	Collapse of bench / table	Children injured in a fall	Condition of equipment is regularly checked. Children are supervised.		L
Leaving site	Children wandering off	Distress / injury	Children are briefed on the end of day procedures. Supervisors constantly present.		L