

Murton Park – Prehistory Day Risk Assessment

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Information

This assessment covers the activities undertaken within the Danelaw Centre for Living History. 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. Paths and roads are gritted as and when needed.		L
Excess numbers of visitors	Inadequate supervision / overcrowding	Increased risk of accidents and injuries	There is a limit of 34 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 who works in conjunction with school staff.		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)
Touching animals (generally two sheep)	Infection risk	Children suffering illness	Children and school staff are briefed on the potential hazards at the start of the day and advised not to touch the animals or put their hands in their mouth if they have been in contact with animals. Hand sanitizer is readily available. Children are taken to wash their hands before lunch.		L
Pregnant ewes	Toxoplasmosis	Pregnant ladies contracting the condition leading to abortion	Warnings are issued to pregnant ladies when there is a potential hazard.		L
Water in ditches and ponds	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 has now been improved in some areas and the main ditch is to be drained.	L
Rubbing stones together	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
Guided tour and talk in Round Houses	Trip hazard in darkened house	Children injured in a fall	Children are briefed on the hazard and walk slowly in single file after being guided in. The room is kept clear of significant tripping hazards.		L
Wearing costumes	Rope causing tripping hazard	Children injured	Children are issued with a tunic and rope tied at the waist by an adult. Ropes are re-tied if they begin to sag.		L
Handling artefacts	Sharp or heavy items	Cuts / crushed fingers	Hazards covered in briefing and constant supervision. Staff regularly check artefacts to be handled.		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)
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
Grinding corn using saddle querns	Wheat allergy	Illness	Visiting parties are asked to provide information on any children with specific allergies and potential hazard is covered in briefing.		L
	Nipping / crushing fingers	Injury	Task is carefully demonstrated and supervised.		L
Hunting practice – spear throwing	Lack of control	Children injured if struck or falling	Wooden broom poles with leather spear heads are used. Throwing and target areas are clearly marked. Throwing and retrieval is done separately under supervision.		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.		