

RIVER BOURNE COMMUNITY FARM FARM RISK ASSESSMENT

WHO IS AT RISK?	HAZARDS	RISKS	RISK RATING	CONTROLS	FURTHER ACTION
Staff Farm Leaders Students Volunteers Group Leaders Helpers Visitors	Premises and Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uneven terrain/ Contact with overhanging trees/vegetation • Shock from electric fencing • Injury from barbed wire fencing 	MED/LOW	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visitors instructed to wear sensible shoes (preferably wellingtons) and sensible clothing. Teachers to advise parents of visiting children on correct attire for their visit. • Visitors to be advised on uneven terrain and the risk of trip/slip hazards and also risk from overhanging trees and vegetation • Electric fencing to be turned off and instruction given on the potential injury from barbed wire fencing. 	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public access areas are not segregated from the main farm work areas. 	MED/LOW	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Farm staff and volunteers follow daily checklist to ensure cleanliness of animal pens and walkways • Temporary barriers and signage are put in place to prevent access by public to working areas. • Farm leaders and staff advise visiting public of associated health risks and controls. • Areas of farmyard gated to control access 	
	Farm Vehicles/ Machinery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Injuries from walking into or near large machines. • Trapping/Abrasion/Injury 	HIGH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Farm staff to check regularly for loose and dangerous parts. 	

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	Hand tools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cuts from blades on sharp tools. • Injuries to hands and feet from dropping tools. • Hair or clothing becoming entangled • Eye injuries from dust or other fragments 	HIGH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All tools to be properly maintained by farm staff. • Farm staff to assess use beforehand. • Correct use of all equipment to be demonstrated and risks explained. • Safety boots/Wellingtons to be worn at all times. • Long hair to be tied back • PPE to be worn e.g. gloves and goggles. 	
	Hazardous Substances around farm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Skin irritation • Breathing problems from vapour 	HIGH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All hazardous substances (disinfectants, chemicals, animal treatments) to be kept in secure place in non-public area. 	

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	Animal Contact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> General 	HIGH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Risk assessment checklist for school/community group visits filled out prior to controlled visits. Volunteers/Students to receive H & S Induction PHE leaflet avoiding infection on farm visits, advice for the public. Available on request. 	
	Animal Contact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attack from the animals Biting, kicking and Crushing 	HIGH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Visitors to be instructed on how to approach animals and correct procedure to feed them i.e. holding out the flat of the hand Volunteers/Students to be trained and familiar with animals. Farm staff to supervise students at all times around animals. Animals to be properly restrained when being handled. Mobile barriers available for use by volunteers. 	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Risk of infection 	HIGH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Visitors are not permitted to enter the animal pens or paddocks by way of signage unless supervised by farm staff. Visitors are prohibited from eating, drinking and smoking in the animal contact areas by way of signage. 	Signage to notify danger to pregnant visitors to be checked

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<p>Staff Farm Leaders Students Volunteers Group Leaders Helpers Visitors</p>	<p>Animal Contact</p>		<p>HIGH</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff & volunteers have received training and information on the prevention & control of infection from animal contact and are able to advise visiting public. • Wash stations with warm flowing water and bacterial soap are positioned in animal contact areas and maintained on a daily basis by caretaker and farm volunteers. • Supervision given by staff to ensure correct hand washing. • Signage is in place directing visitors to wash hands before leaving the area. • Non-contact animals are away from the visitor areas and access is restricted. • Visitors advised only to eat any food or drink in area designated after thoroughly washing hands. • Paths, gates, fencing etc. to be regularly cleaned and disinfected to reduce the risk of infection. • Instruction to be given on keeping away from dung heaps/animal waste areas 	
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		Animal Security <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Climbing on gates/fences and leaving enclosure gates open 	HIGH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Should an animal escape, visitors to be instructed not to go near it and to immediately inform a member of farm staff or teacher Instruction to be given on the need to keep enclosure gates shut at all times and the danger of climbing on fencing and gates
	Manual Handling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Back injury or injuries to feet if heavy weights dropped 	MEDIUM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where possible mechanical assistance and/or lifting aids used. Large unit sizes to be avoided e.g. feed bags to weigh 25 kg or less. Lifting or carrying distances to be reduced by providing mechanical or other ways to move goods. Where manual handling tasks remain and cannot be avoided, farm staff to advise on correct lifting techniques and provide training to enable students/volunteers to do this. Safety boots to be worn
	Slips, trips and falls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Injuries from minor to major 	MEDIUM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Layout and routes planned to minimise risks. Paths, gates, fencing etc. to be regularly checked and maintained.

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	Touching and handling plants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poisoning or sickness 	MEDIUM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No potentially poisonous plants to be grown. • Regular mowing and maintenance of vegetation/trees, removal of irritant plants/weeds where required & practicable. • Suitable gloves to be worn when handling plants known to be irritating to skin or when some parts are harmful or have been sprayed with chemicals. 	
	Chemicals used in gardening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inhalation, skin or eye irritation 	MEDIUM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Farm to adopt environmentally sensitive approach to horticulture with little or no use of chemicals. • If chemicals are used they should be in accordance and stored in accordance with H & S legislation and used by qualified adult in proper manner. 	

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	Soil	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tetanus, Toxoplasmosis Skin irritation Soil blowing into eyes 	MEDIUM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Farm staff to check with schools whether students are up to date with tetanus injections. Volunteers to ensure they are protected. Before gardening sessions, any animal mess to be removed by farm staff wearing gloves Hands to be thoroughly washed (by students/volunteers & staff) at the end of each gardening session.
	Touching or tasting fruit and veg	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children with specific allergies Germs and bugs in soil 	MEDIUM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Farm staff to be aware of any volunteers/students with specific food or plant allergies. Nothing to be eaten without authority of farm staff who must be competent to identify potentially harmful fruits and plants. All fruit & vegetables eaten must be thoroughly washed in tap water.
	Wound Infection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New or old wounds becoming infected 	MEDIUM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any injury to be attended to by a qualified first aider.
	Manure and Compost heaps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Risk of infection Airborne particles, flies and vermin 	MEDIUM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Visitors are not allowed to bag their own compost or manure. Manure is taken off site periodically Compost trailers to be emptied regularly and compost deposited in area away from public access.

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	Weather	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sunburn, dehydration, hypothermia Slipping in wet/icy weather Soil/dust blown into eyes 	MEDIUM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Farm staff to ensure volunteers/students are wearing appropriate clothing for weather conditions. Adequate fluids to be drunk in hot conditions & work activities to be planned in shady areas where possible. In wet weather, activities to be planned to minimise risk of slipping. Brushing, digging & raking soil in windy conditions to be avoided
	Electrical Equipment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fire Electrocution 	MEDIUM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Portable Appliance Testing to be carried out yearly by authorised company. Electrical equipment to be kept at correct standard and well maintained. Students to receive instruction and supervision whilst using electrical equipment. Electrical installations to be inspected and maintained by competent electrician. High machinery and loads to only travel under overhead power lines where there is adequate clearance
	Bees, Wasps and other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stings and bites 	LOW	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Farm staff to be aware of those volunteers/students with allergies to

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Staff Farm Leaders Students Volunteers Group Leaders Helpers Visitors	biting insects			insects. Farm staff to ensure, as much as is possible, that those volunteers/students with allergies do not come in close contact with farm bees. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First Aid kits to be available to treat volunteers/students if stung/bitten. 	
	Dust	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eye irritation • Lung diseases exacerbated 	LOW	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Generation of dust and spores should be kept to a minimum. • Adequate ventilation should be provided. • A suitable dust respirator (P2 or P3) should be used where dust or spore levels cannot be fully controlled. 	
	Pollen	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hay Fever 	LOW (Dependant on weather)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Farm staff to be aware of those students who are susceptible to hay fever and who may require medication. • Farm staff to make themselves aware of the pollen count at the start of the day. 	

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Staff Volunteers Group Leaders Helpers Group Members Children	River Dipping	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access problem for ambulance 	LOW	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Farm leaders to have short wave radios. • Farm leaders to be able to give emergency services clear directions to the farm. 	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • River too fast flowing or deep for safe river working 	MEDIUM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Farm staff to assess beforehand • If river deemed too fast flowing or deep, work to be confined to river bank or session cancelled 	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drowning 	MEDIUM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Correct procedure for river work demonstrated and warning given of potential risks. Verbal instruction to children to stay back from water's edge and to take care when in river itself. • Groups to be supervised at all times. 	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cuts & abrasions from objects on river bed 	LOW	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Verbal instructions to highlight risk • Wellingtons to be worn 	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Falling/slipping when on river bank 	MEDIUM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Written instruction to schools or groups to wear sensible clothing and wellingtons. No child allowed in river without wellingtons. • Safety talk to highlight risks. • Children not allowed to run around by river's edge • Children to sit if not immediately involved. 	
Staff Volunteers Group Leaders Helpers Group Members Children	River Dipping				

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Staff Volunteers Group Leaders Helpers Group Members	River Dipping			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If river dipping from bank, instructions to be given to stay low • Activity to be stopped if children misbehave.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poisonous or harmful plants in river or on riverbank 	MEDIUM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Verbal instruction to warn children of risks. • Identify plants to be avoided at specific locations (e.g. hemlock, ragwort, woody nightshade) and advise them to not to touch a plant if they do not know what it is. • Written instruction to schools or groups advising that children should wear long trousers. • Clean hands thoroughly after activities.
		Weil's disease and any other water-borne infections	MEDIUM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safety talk, prior to activity, warning of risks. • Any cuts or open wounds to be covered. • Verbal instruction to keep face/hand contact to a minimum. • Visiting staff to be made aware of symptoms if child falls into water. • Hands to be cleaned thoroughly after activities. • Do not use river site if blue green algae present.

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Children		Being poked by end of a net	LOW	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Correct use of all equipment to be demonstrated and risks explained. • Number of children on dipping platform at one time to be limited 	
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