**Risk assessment for school visits to Aglionby wetlands** Text

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| **Operational Owner** | Education Manager: Helen Ward |
| **Trustee Owner** | Chair: Fiona Merritt |
| **Effective date:** | 21/11/22 |
| **Review date:** | 21/11/24 |
| **Related documents** |  |

**Approval History**

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| Version | Reviewed by | Amendment History | Approved by | Date |
| 1.0 | Ruth Alcroft | First Draft | Trustees |  |
| 1.1 | Helen Ward | Sept 2021 | Chair | Sept 2021 |
| 1.2 | Emma Hughes | Review – no changes |  | Aug 2022 |
| 1.3 | Helen Ward | Update re emergency services access |  | 21/11/22 |

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| **Hazard** | **Who might be harmed and how?** | **Risk** | **Controls measures** | **Residual risk** |
| Visitors will have symptoms of Covid-19 | Visitors pass it on to other visitors or members of staff | Low | Original booking email to give instructions not to attend if any member of the group is unwell with Covid-19 symptoms  Hand sanitise on arrival (NO tap / running water available onsite)  Staff will remind visitors  Names, addresses and contact details should be held for three weeks after attending in the event that a case is linked to Susan's Farm  A sanitisation programme will take place to ensure taps, door handles and benches are clean | Low |
| Vehicle / Traffic | Collision with group members on foot | Medium | Parents / staff dropping group members off to pull in carefully at the entrance gate and NOT drive down the track.  Entrance gate to road closed to deter unauthorised vehicles entering the site, but not locked after group have entered in case of the need for emergency vehicle access.  Anyone parking / driving to do proceed with care and under 10mph on rough track. | Low |
| Inappropriate behaviour | Visitors chasing wildlife, climb gates and fences | Medium | Guidance will be given to group upon arrival explaining the importance of sensible behaviour at the wetlands.  Clear agreement re standards of behaviour and risk set out in disclaimer  Appropriate adult supervision / child: adult ratios.  Visitors with additional behavioural issues to be supported appropriately | Low |
| Slips, Trips and Falls | Injury | Medium | During the welcome talk attention should be given to the types of terrain being covered and advisory caution given the to be careful.  Visitors encouraged to wear appropriate footwear | Low/medium |
| Missing persons | Participants getting lost / wandering from the group / site area | Low | Maintain appropriate child: adult supervision ratio.  Visiting group leaders to carry out head counts  Encourage participants to stay with their group.  Provide boundaries to allow for exploration.  Entrance gate to road closed to deter absconding but not locked after group have entered in case of the need for emergency vehicle access. | Low |
| Weather related conditions | Summer – Hay fever, heat/ sunstroke, dehydration  Winter – Hypothermia  Slips, trips and falls on ice | Medium | Group members to be made aware that they will be surrounded by grass, vegetation, wildflowers etc. during the visit and to be responsible for their own hay fever medication as applicable (or responsible adult for a child).  Group members responsible for regular application of high factor sunscreen. Use of rest breaks in shade of bird hide as necessary. NO running water at the wetlands site. Groups to bring their own drinks.  Groups to bring suitable clothing for the weather. Some shelter available is the bird hide, but this is unheated.  In snowy / icy conditions, weather forecasts checked in advance of the visit to assess safety (particularly as access road may not be a gritting priority. | Low |
| Contact with faecal material | Visitor contracts E.Coli 157 | High | Reminders given to visitors about hand washing / sanitising  Hand sanitiser available in the compost toilet  All visitors advised to wash their hands with soap and warm at the earliest opportunity and before eating. | Medium |
| Wet boardwalk | Visitor slips and falls, potentially into water – possible drowning | Low | Disclaimer  Visitors advised to wear appropriate footwear and to take care on boardwalk, as there is a low edge.  Work with site owner to maintain boardwalks. | Low |
| Contact with water | Visitor contracts waterborne disease, leptospirosis (weil’s disease) cryptosporidium | Low | Hand Sanitiser available onsite and in compost toilet.  Reminder to handwash at the end of visit.  Disclaimer  Visitors to cover  existing cuts and abrasions before visiting and to wash, and wipe with  disinfectant wipe any cuts and abrasions which happen during a visit.  Warning given to any higher risk categories of visitors  – such as those with weakened immune systems. | Low |
| Falling in water | Visitors are injured/drown during their visit. | Low | Safety talk at start of trip ensuring visitors are aware of what to do if they fall in. Visitors are given clear safety instructions to take care near edge of ponds/river where ground may be unstable. Close supervision of all visitors by supporting adults and farm staff. Ratios of adults/children appropriate for locations visited. | Low |
| Injury | Visitors are injured during their visit | Medium | First aid kit taken by staff to the wetlands site.  Appropriate levels of first aid trained staff on site during visit.  Staff to assist/call for help as required. | Low/medium |
| Allergic reactions  (anaphylactic shock / Poisoning) | Visitors becoming unwell through eating or touching poisonous berries or fungi / mushrooms found at the site | Low | If Susan’s farm provides food or snacks, group leaders are to make any allergies clear on the booking form.  While visitors are encouraged to learn about the hedgerow plants and fungi they experience, a full sensory exploration is not encouraged, and they should be briefed NOT to eat what they find, unless given explicit instructions safe to do so by a competent forager who has clearly identified the plant is safe to eat. For example, blackberries. | Low |
| Bee stings | Visitors may be stung by a bee, | Low | Visitors with severe allergies should carry Epi Pen | Low |
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**Susan’s Farm Disclaimer**

Any under 16s must be accompanied by an adult

We understand that the tour takes place in wetland environment, where wildlife and animals live. We will act responsibly, using a quiet tone of voice and moving away sensibly if we feel they are too close. We will not chase them.

We will not climb on the gates and leave them as we find them (open if open, closed if closed).

We understand that wetland visits run the risk of exposure to germs such as E-coli. We will not eat whilst out and about at the wetlands. We understand we will have to wash our hands at the end of the visit.

We understand that the ground is uneven and there may be other hazards such as barbed wire, low branches or nettles and we are happy to take responsibility for our group with regards to this.

We confirm that none of the group members are displaying signs of Covid-19. These symptoms include:

* A high temperature
* A continuous cough
* A loss of sense of smell and taste

Anyone displaying these symptoms should remain at home and arrange to have a test for Covid-19

Signature:………………………………………………………………………………………………………………….

Date: …………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………