



THE WILDLIFE TRUSTS
WALES

Wildlife Trust of South and West Wales

RISK ASSESSMENT for school visits

The risks are assigned a 'risk score' which ranges from 1 (negligible risk) to 16 (extreme risk). Multiplying the maximum severity of the perceived risk by the estimated probability of it happening yields this risk score. The scales used are:-

Severity: 1 = negligible; 2 = minor injury, first aid suffices; 3 = minor injury, medical help needed; 4 = fatality

Probability 1 = unlikely; 2 = possible; 3 = highly possible; 4 = frequent occurrence

HAZARD	RISKS/CONSEQUENCES	AGGRAVATING FACTORS	RISK SCORE	CONTROL MEASURES
Vegetation				
1. gorse, brambles, grasses	Cuts, abrasions	Children running	2 x 3 = 6	Warn all party.
2. Hemlock	Skin irritation, possible blistering	Direct contact with sap	2 x 2 = 4	Warn all party not to touch plants.
3. Woodland	Fallen or falling branches. Trips, bruises.	Strong winds	4 x 2 = 8	Be alert, avoid woodland areas in bad conditions.
4. Fungi and fruit on various plants	Risk of poisoning, sickness, stomach cramps, diarrhoea. Possible fatality for some fungi.	Children's curiosity	4 x 2 = 8	Do not eat or touch fruits or fungi.

Terrain 1. Uneven ground on some footpaths 2. Pond side footprints 3. Ponds	Slips, trips and falls; cuts and bruises, fractures Fall into pond; risk of fatality Falling in; very slight risk of fatality. Risk of splashes, getting wet and cold.	Impatience, wet surfaces, fatigue Rough/uneven ground Excitement, impatience. Wet and/or muddy banks	$3 \times 2 = 6$ $4 \times 2 = 8$ $4 \times 2 = 8$	Warn all in party. Wear appropriate footwear. Be alert, stay on footpath. Vigilance, good advice to party.
Weather 1. Wind and/or rain 2. Wind and/or sun	Temperature loss, hypothermia Dehydration, heat exhaustion and sunburn	Inadequate clothing Inadequate clothing. High humidity.	$3 \times 2 = 6$ $2 \times 2 = 4$	Suitable clothing. Suitable, lightweight clothing. Good sun block.
Wildlife 1. Bugs and/or ticks 2. Biting/ stinging insects 3. Dead animals or birds	Bites, skin irritation and possibly Lyme disease Pain, inflammation, adverse reaction Mites, ticks, fleas and bacteria of decay: risk of bites or tummy upsets.	Deer and other livestock Hot weather, provocation of insects Poor weather may increase mortality among young birds and small mammals	$3 \times 1 = 3$ $2 \times 3 = 6$ $2 \times 2 = 4$	Medical check of inexplicable rash. Warn all party. Knowledge of allergies/reactors. Warn all in party. Do not pick up carcasses.
Chemical 1. Wood preservative on fences	Skin irritation, risk of transfer to eyes	On-going repairs to facilities	$2 \times 1 = 2$	Enquire of staff if the hazard is present.
Human Factors 1. Fatigue	Carelessness, increasing the risks from other hazards.	Long journey time for visit, previous energetic activities, hot, windy or humid	$2 \times 2 = 4$	Warn party, walk at easy pace.

2. Anger, frustration. Both your own and other people.	Carelessness: desire to leave footpaths, take short cuts. Increasing risks from other hazards. Aggression towards/ from others.	conditions. Arriving ill equipped, uninformed and unprepared.	2 x 1 = 2	Prepare well for visit. Show due regard to the needs of others. In the event of confrontation, back off.
3. Medical conditions	Lack or failure to take medication	Exertion: dust, pollen, fear (e.g. heights, wildlife)	3 x 2 = 6	Awareness and adequate medication. At least 2 of the leaders should be aware of the circumstances of party members.
4. Traffic	Cars, lorries. Risk of being knocked down.	Distractions by wildlife or other people	4 x 2 = 8	Vigilance, keep children in nature centre grounds.
5. Fire	Possible fatality	Electrical failures inside building	4 x 1 = 4	Make all visitors aware of emergency procedures.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

Provided that the guidance given is followed and visitors do not stray off the pathways, PArc Slip Visitor Centre is a safe place for school parties. The greatest risk is of scratches or brambles or falls on even ground; these will seldom result in anything worse than minor cuts and bruises. Leaders should be particularly watchful near the ponds.

The Education Officer is a trained First Aider.