



Bedfordshire
Cambridgeshire
Northamptonshire
Peterborough

The Wildlife Trust Risk Assessment Scoring System

Risk = Hazard Severity × Likelihood of occurrence (Probability)

Hazard Severity on a scale of 5:

1. Low (minor injury to one individual)
2. Slight (injury or disease capable of keeping one person off work 3 or more days)
3. Moderate (injury or disease capable of keeping more than one person off work for 3 or more days)
4. High (death to an individual)
5. Very High (multiple deaths)

Likelihood of occurrence (probability) on a scale of 5:

1. Not likely (an injury may occur less than once in a working year, doing this activity every day)
2. Possible (an injury may occur once in a working year, doing this activity every day)
3. Occasional (an injury is likely to occur 2 or 3 times in a working year, doing this activity every day)
4. Common (an injury is likely to occur more than 3 times in a working year, doing this activity every day)
5. Likely (an injury is probably going to occur)

Use the equation above to determine a **risk factor** ranging from 1 (no severity and unlikely to happen) to 25 (just waiting to happen, with disastrous and widespread results).

Risk Factors

- 1-3 Low, improve when possible
- 4-9 Medium risk factor, improve as soon as possible
- 10+ Deal with the risk before you start the task, preferably before anyone else arrives on site.

A risk factor of 10+ is unacceptable. If it cannot be reduced do not carry out the task.

To make equation work effectively, **Likelihood** and **Severity** must be judged independently.

Operational/Activity Risk Assessment

Activity: Wild Journey Through Time					Name of Assessor: Debbie Mckenzie			
Site Location: Paxton Pits Nature Reserve					Date of Assessment: 5/6/08			
Description of hazard	Severity of hazard (a), score 1 – 5	Probability of harm (b), score 1- 5	Risk factor (a x b)	Action required	Severity of hazard (a), score 1 – 5	Probability of harm (b), score 1- 5	Risk factor (a x b)	Notes
General								
Crossing the road, a busy working quarry is situated within the site	4	3	12	Meet the coach, children are briefed at visitor centre, verbal warnings, vigilance, road crossing organised carefully each time. Awareness by school staff and accompanying adults.	4	1	4	Watch out for quarry lorries. Wildlife Garden where we have our lunch opens onto road therefore parents/ staff who supervise lunch need to be aware
Slips and trips on naturally uneven ground	2	4	8	Vigilance, children under control when moving around site	2	3	6	
Dogs	2	2	4	Children are warned not to approach dogs and told what to do if a dog approaches in introductory briefing, vigilance	2	1	2	

Dog mess	2	2	4	Children warned during introductory talk, vigilance and verbal warnings, pre-visit check.(Dog owners are asked to use bins provided) Children wash hands before lunch/eating.	2	1	2	
Sunstroke, sunburn	3	3	9	Recommend children dressed for weather, sunhats, suncream, long sleeves, vigilance, water can be provided by Wildlife Trust at lunchtime	3	2	6	
Allergies hay fever, food, bee/wasp stings	4	2	8	Teacher completed booking form with details. Ensure group leaders are aware of any allergies of children in their group and teachers have correct medication with them. Teacher responsible for dispensing medication and knowing what to do in event of a reaction.	4	1	4	
Nettles, prickles	2	4	8	Vigilance, verbal warning. Children asked to wear long trousers, trainers/wellies.	2	4	8	

Water – falling in	4	2	8	Vigilance, if necessary verbal warning	4	1	4	
Poisonous plants, berries, fungus	3	2	6	Verbal warnings, vigilance.	3	1	3	Poisonous plants, berries, fungus
General public on-site	3	1	3	Vigilance	3	1	3	
Fossil Hunting								
Throwing large stones	2	3	6	Verbal warning, vigilance.	2	1	2	
Sand flicked in eyes/stones flung upwards	2	4	8	Verbal warning, vigilance.	2	3	6	
Pond dipping								
Children falling in the water	4	3	12	Ensure children do not go near water unsupervised; safe dipping demonstration including explanation of kneeling, crouching whilst dipping, and vigilance.	4	2	8	
Slippery paths in wet weather, falling tripping into water	4	2	8	Advise to take care when going down to waters edge.	4	1	4	

Weils's disease	4	2	8	Keep cut or damaged skin covered. Warn not to put hands near mouth/face, wash hands before eating. Ask children with open cuts, eczema on hands to cover – give them a vinyl glove to put on.	4	1	4	
Handling nets, banging into each other	2	3	6	Demonstrate safe use, advise taking care.	2	2	4	
Bites from insect	2	2	4	Explain in safety demonstration risk.	2	1	2	
Discarded tackle, fishing hooks	2	2	4	Staff check platforms regularly and again on the morning of the visit.	2	2	4	
Minibeast hunting								
Using sweep nets, knocking other children/self	2	3	6	Demonstrate safe use, vigilance.	2	2	4	
Tree beating, hitting self or others with stick	2	3	6	Wildlife Trust staff member assesses pupils and allows them responsibility for this activity as appropriate. Vigilance.	2	2	4	
Insect bite or sting	2	3	6	Remind children how to deal with buzzing insects, verbal warning.	2	2	4	
Investigating insect life of logs								

Cracked trunk on large willow. Danger of collapse.	5	2	10	Area cordoned off at start of activity. Verbal warning given to children to work on right side of barrier.	5	1	5	
Strain to child or adult lifting logs	2	2	4	All told to roll logs rather than to lift	2	1	2	
Eye level branches catching child in the eye	2	4	8	Verbal warning	2	3	6	
Birdwatching								
Hayden hide – banging head with window flaps	2	3	6	Vigilance	2	2	4	

Signature of assessor: Debbie Mckenzie

Date: 5/6/08