



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

<b>Activity: Wild Journey Through Time</b>					<b>Name of Assessor: Debbie Mckenzie</b>			
<b>Site Location: Paxton Pits Nature Reserve</b>					<b>Date of Assessment: 19/3/09</b>			
<b>Description of hazard</b>	<b>Severity of hazard (a), score 1 – 5</b>	<b>Probability of harm (b), score 1- 5</b>	<b>Risk factor (a x b)</b>	<b>Action required</b>	<b>Severity of hazard (a), score 1 – 5</b>	<b>Probability of harm (b), score 1- 5</b>	<b>Risk factor (a x b)</b>	<b>Notes</b>
<b>General</b>								
<b>Crossing the road, a busy working quarry is situated within the site</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>Meet the coach; keep children out of car park; advise staff of and follow operational procedure for road crossing</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>Watch out for quarry lorries. Make all aware during introduction and remind at crossing points</b>
<b>Slips and trips on naturally uneven ground</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>Vigilance, children under control when moving around site</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>6</b>	
<b>Dogs</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>Children are warned not to approach dogs and told what to do if a dog approaches in introductory briefing, vigilance</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	
<b>Dog mess</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>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</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	

<b>Sunstroke, sunburn</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>Recommend children dress for weather, sunhats, suncream, long sleeves, vigilance, water can be provided by Wildlife Trust staff at lunchtime</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>6</b>	
<b>Allergies hay fever, food, bee/wasp stings</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>Teacher to complete 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</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	
<b>Nettles, prickles</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>Vigilance, verbal warning. Children asked to wear long trousers, trainers/wellies</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	
<b>Water – falling in</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>Vigilance, if necessary verbal warning</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	
<b>Poisonous plants, berries, fungus</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>Verbal warnings, vigilance</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>Poisonous plants, berries, fungus</b>
<b>General public on-site</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>Vigilance</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	

<b>Fossil Hunting</b>								
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	
<b>Pond dipping</b>								
Children falling in the water	4	3	12	Ensure children do not go near water unsupervised; safe dipping demonstration and vigilance	4	2	8	Throwline available See operational procedure
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	

<b>Minibeast hunting</b>								
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 assess pupils and allow them appropriate responsibility for this activity. Vigilance	2	2	4	
Insect bite or sting	2	3	6	Remind children how to deal with buzzing insects, verbal warning	2	2	4	
<b>Investigating insect life of logs</b>								
Branch falling from willows in basin area	4	1	4	Checks made by HDC rangers, daily site check on day of visit by Wildlife Trust staff. Any areas with obvious dangerous limbs avoided or if necessary cordoned off	4	1	4	
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	

<b>Birdwatching</b>								
Hayden hide – banging head with window flaps	2	3	6	Vigilance	2	2	4	

Signature of assessor: **Debbie Mckenzie**

Date: **19/3/09**