Sample risk assessment for farm activities

SITE NAME:		**GRID REF**:
OWNER:		**TEL. NO**:
ASSESSORS:		**DATE OF ASSESSMENT**:
NEAREST HOSPITAL: **DOCTORS SURGERY** **SITE ACCESS FOR EMERGENCY VEHICLES:**		**Tel** **Tel**
Activity: TRAILER RIDES		
HAZARD	RISK LEVEL (HIGH, MEDIUM, LOW)	ACTION
Overhanging branches and brambles on trailer ride routes	low	• Check for and remove any potentially dangerous overhanging vegetation on routes to be used that day. • Frequently used trailer routes to be regularly maintained.
Open sided trailer	medium	• Safety talk given by leader before every ride to ensure children i) stay seated at all times when trailer is moving; ii) keep hands, feet and heads inside of green bars; and iii) hold onto green bars if necessary. • Teachers and parents to sit evenly spaced between children in order for them to reach across if necessary. • leader or teacher to sit at back of trailer, with chain secured across doorway before departing. • Trailer driver instructed to drive slowly when children are on board, and made especially aware of very young children on a visit.
Activity: GAMES		
Wet ground	low	• Assess ground conditions prior to visit, decision to be made by leaders whether to; a) cancel game or b) play game by walking not running.
Activity: POND DIPPING		
Direct access to pond edge	high	• Fenced area, gated access – no access unless supervised • Leader to instruct group to first sit on benches away from pond for instructions before starting activity and then only to dip from purpose built platform.
Deep Water	high	• Caution signs to be put up, verbal warnings • Long poles and throw lines to be put out to use as rescue equipment.
Uneven section of boardwalk at far side of pond	low	• Replace or even out section.
Slippery surface on bridge and	medium	• Consider covering bridge and platform with

platform in wet conditions		chicken wire to make surface less slippery.
Gaps between horizontal bars on dipping platform	medium	• Children instructed before beginning activity to make sure they do not lean below the lowest bar or lean too far over. • Adequate supervision of group at all times by leader and school staff.
Bacteria in pond water	low	• Health & safety talk to all groups. • Cuts covered and use of antiseptic wipes. • Wash hands after activity using soap and water. • Advice on how to use nets to avoid splashing.
Activity: LAND USE		
Unsupervised small groups	low	• Ensure that every group is • provided with a clear map and instructions are given as to where to meet and where not to go. • Education officer to decide ability of group and allow access accordingly.
Unstable gate into Oak tree field	low	• Repair gate. • Instruct group going to station F not lean on gate until repair is complete.
Paths overgrown	low	• Check and clear paths before visit • for any overhanging or obstructing vegetation.
Activity: SOILS WALK THROUGH FIELD		
Disembarking trailer on road next to gate into field	low	• leader to disembark first in order to check for oncoming traffic and stand in appropriate position for safe disembarking of the group. • Instruct group to stand off road, next to gate. • Trailer driver to assist if necessary.
Unstable gate at top of field	low	• Manager to action replacement of gate.
Digging a hole	low	• leader to advise group as to a safe way of using spade; • keep back straight when digging • not to jump with both feet on spade.
Ground conditions – clay soil very slippery and water logged in wet conditions	low	• Advise group of conditions and seek alternative route if necessary.
Deep hole by 2nd site bottom of Annis field	low	• Mark hole with yellow sticks • Make group aware and avoid.
Cattle in field	low	• Children to be instructed to behave sensibly and stay together when passing cattle. • Manager to action moving bull from field when necessary.
Activity: ANIMALS		
Dirty and dangerous surfaces on gates, sheep race, sheep pens	medium	• Warn children prior to start of visit • Staff monitoring on daily basis and

etc		cleaning where appropriate • Hurdles to be jet washed before lambing
Hurdles in use not secured	low	• Make secure or remove from visited areas
General untidiness in orphan lamb area (March – May)	low	• Clear this area each morning prior to visit
Brooms, forks and other tools in aisle areas in and around lambing shed	low	• Store away from paths regularly used by children (liaise with farm staff) • Warn visiting school groups – advise caution
Big barn doors not properly secured	medium	• Staff to check that doors are securely fastened
Farm and delivery vehicles moving around yard	low	• Speed restriction signs to be put up at entrance to yard • Farm staff to be made aware when there are groups in the yard • Health & safety – make children aware of moving vehicles and instruct to stay as a group
Activity: MACHINES		
Climbing into combine harvester cab	low/medium	• leader to enter cab first, teacher to assist children at bottom of ladder. • Only three children allowed in cab at any one time. • Children instructed to climb down ladder backwards.
Machine demonstration (occasional)	low	• Children instructed to stand together in a place visible to the driver, and to keep a safe distance from the vehicle in operation.
Stationary farm machinery	low	• Check regularly for loose and dangerous parts – ed. staff • Ensure all machinery is flat on the ground or roped off • Keys not to be left in machines when visits are ongoing
Activity: GRAIN STORE		
Dust	low	• At least one set of doors to remain open when groups are in grain store. • Health & safety talk – children asked about allergies and told about dust in grain store. • Children reminded that air may be dusty and to stand outside if necessary.
Access to grain store wind tunnel	low	• Ed. staff to check door is closed prior to every visit.
Access to ladder up to top of grain store	medium	• Ladder to be cordoned off with hazard tape prior to every visit.
Access to light and power switches	low	• Children to be instructed by leader not to touch switches. • Activity to be set up well away from switches.
Activity: RIVER STUDIES (MEASURING & DIPPING)		
Dead trees along bridleway	low	• Check stability on post visit check
Overhead electricity cables near house (top) and halfway down	low	• Check post stability on pre visit check

bridle way		
Roadside hazard – crossing road from entrance to bridle-way	medium	• Staff to ensure adult at front and back of group • Warn children • Adequate supervision
Brambles and thorns at eye-height on bridle way	low	• Clear path prior to visit
Weather conditions – especially relevant given lack of shelter at sites	low	• First Aid kit and blanket to be brought along on each visit • Provide schools with recommendations for suitable clothing
Slippery banks	medium	• Health & safety talk to all groups
Deep / fast flowing water	high	• Site to be visited before each visit to ensure water is not too deep for a visit and to remove obstacles from the river • Teachers to be made aware that visit may have to be cancelled if, on inspection, the river is considered to be unsafe for fieldwork. • Insert hurdles into river and rope off section where river has scoured out a dip underneath the bridge
Using waders	low	• Health & safety talk to all groups • Health & safety guidelines to be sent to all schools
Using / carrying field equipment		• Health & safety talk to all groups
Bridge gets slippery when wet	low	• Instruct children to walk carefully across bridge.
Bacteria in water		• Cuts covered prior to starting activity • Children with severe cuts or eczema to be advised not to have contact with water • Health & safety talk to all groups • Health & safety guidelines to be sent to all schools
Activity: WOODLAND TRAIL AND MINIBEAST HUNT (HABITATS)		
Wildlife hazards – snakes, fungi etc	low	• Warn children not to approach
Overhanging branches and brambles on walk through copse	low	Route through woodland to be checked and cut back prior to visit Warn children on approach to woodland
Trip hazard – tree roots, slippery leaves	low	Children instructed not to run in the woods and watch where they are walking at all times
Splitting up into smaller groups for minibeast hunting	low	Leader to divide group according to number of adults, making sure there is one adult with each group Groups to stay within earshot of leader at activity starting point
Lifting logs and stones	low	Children instructed to ask adult in group to turn stones/logs if too heavy
Activity: SWEEP NETTING IN MEADOW (HABITATS)		
Metal frame on sweep net	low	Children instructed to sweep a safe distance away from group members, leader/teachers to supervise

Direct access to river from meadow	low	leader to instruct group to stay away from river edge