

## CHURCH FARM STOW BARDOLPH RISK ASSESSMENT FOR VISITORS

At Church Farm visitors are expected to understand and accept that there are risks when visiting a farm and play area. We endeavor to reduce these as far as possible, but always have to mind that in a fun, stimulating and educational environment such as this, the risks can never be totally negated, got rid of, or the farm would be bland and boring with no stimulation at all.

The following are the risks that have been identified, the controls that are in place and the actions required to help reduce any problems.

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**Hazard:** Graveled area next to the undercover seating area - slightly sloping.

**Risk:** Low

**Controls:** As this area is slightly sloping, children running from the playground to the undercover seating area may trip, resulting in cuts and grazes.

**Future:** Look at grassing over this area, but this may not be possible because of the drainage and the water going into the undercover area. Break up gravel area, so children cannot run straight through plants, pots etc.

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**Hazard:** Sandpit

**Risk:** Low

**Controls:** The sand is kept fairly low next to the edges, so that the risk of falling out is reduced. Children should be supervised at all times in this area. There is a notice up saying this. Eye wash is available in the first aid kit in the shop.

**Hazard:** Bales

**Risk:** Medium

**Controls:** The bales are of extremely high play value, encouraging adventurous play and unusual texture, not experienced by a lot of people. Daily checks for wear and tear of bales and netting, and depth of straw, animals in area. e.g. nest, rabbits etc. Additional signs for no smoking are erected in the barn. Children need to be supervised.

**Future:** Sign about supervision to be erected directly in the bale area..

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**Hazard:** Uneven Ground around the Farm

**Risk:** Low

**Controls:** We put on the entrance ticket, which everyone receives, a note that there are uneven surfaces.

**Future:** Gradually patch and improve these areas.

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**Hazard:** Zoonoses (diseases from animals)

1) E coli 0157, passed from animal faeces via fingers into mouths

**Risk:** Medium

**Controls:** No build up of faeces in the petting pens and piglet areas, as these are cleared away daily. The gates and rails of the petting pens are disinfected every week, as are the rails on the tractor trailer. Washing signs and facilities are in place next to the pens. We give talks to visiting groups about hand washing. Feeding of animals by the public is not permitted.

**Future:** Sign about washing any dropped object before returning it to the child. Hand out fact sheets for visitors about the risk of E-Coli.

2) Gastro Intestinal Infections

**Risk:** Medium

**Controls:** Outside and inside tables are wiped regularly to remove bird droppings. Hand washing facilities. No contact with ill or stressed baby or adult animals, which are more likely to carry disease.

**Future:**

3) Skin Infections e.g. orf or ringworm

**Risk:** Low

**Controls:** If there are signs of disease in any animal it is taken away from contact with the public immediately. Control infection amongst the animals as much as possible

**Future:**

**Hazard:** Dirty Hands

**Risk:** High, but made low by controls

**Controls:** Large hand washing facility available next to the petting pens, with liquid soap and hand towels. Signs in place at pens where animals can be touched. Tell school groups in preliminary talk. Pictorial signs by all the sinks for hand washing.

**Future:**

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**Hazard:** Animals Biting, Butting or Kicking.

**Risk:** Medium

**Controls:** Any animal that is not trusted and tame is penned off so that the public can look at them, but cannot get in with them. Only tame, docile animals are put in the petting pens and these are monitored. Visitors are expected to supervise children at all times with the animals. Very occasionally the animals may display uncharacteristic behaviour, especially if provoked, prodded or pulled around. We do not provide feed for the public to give to the animals to discourage any jostling or biting. Any animals being led, e.g. the donkeys, have 2 people, so 1 can go at the back to stop anyone getting kicked. Animal Encounters always has one member of staff with the animal.

**Future:** Aim for more animals in petting pens and tamer rabbits and guinea pigs.

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**Hazard:** Ride On Tractors

**Risk:** Low

**Controls:** The ride on tractors are expected to be driven sensibly with no banging. There is a notice up to advise people of this.

**Future:** To improve the uneven ground in the tractor area.

**Hazard:** Trampolines, falling, overcrowding or becoming caught under trampoline

**Risk:** Low

**Controls:** The trampolines have been put into holes in the ground to avoid accidents with children falling off. There should be supervision by accompanying adults on all items in the play area. Children should remove their shoes. One trampoline is solely for Under 4s. Trampolines checked daily for missing springs and damaged covers.

**Future:**

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**Hazard:** Adventure Play Trail

**Risk:** Low →??Medium

**Control:** Safety matting is installed where critical fall height is over  $\frac{1}{2}$ m.  
Trail is checked visually on a daily basis and recorded.

**Future:** Check the equipment in more detail on a weekly basis

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**Hazard:** Car Park

**Risk:** Low →??Medium

**Control:** The car park next to the shop is relatively small and normally full so the cars cannot go fast.

**Future:** A notice to be placed in the car park about moving cars.

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**Hazard:** Nature Walk

**Risk:** Low

**Control:** Children are always accompanied by adults. The walk is never very far from the shop at Church Farm if it is necessary to return because of a sting etc. The nature walk supervisor will not allow anyone to touch plants or insects that may cause stings or irritations.

**Future:**

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**Hazard:** Pond

**Risk:** Low

**Control:** The pond is well fenced, with a 3 bar fence and netting down to ground level. There is a life belt in place on the edge of the pond.

**Future:**

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**Hazard:** Lost Children

**Risk:** Low

**Controls:** Church Farm is a small enclosed site. The staff all wear Church Farm tops so the children know who to go to.

**Future:** Maybe set up a lost child meeting place at a central location i.e. the ice-cream hut.

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**Hazard:** Tractor & Trailer Ride

**Risk:** Low

**Controls:** The tractor is driven slowly and in a low gear all the way around the route. The driver warns everyone to sit down throughout the journey, and informs them that there maybe bumps which might result in heads being banged. There is cladding on the rail that is at head height. There is a notice telling people to remain seated.

**Future:** Ensure that all the drivers follow the above rules.

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**Hazard:** Chemicals & Veterinary Medicines

**Risk:** Low

**Controls:** All chemicals are locked away from the public.

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**Hazard:** Treehouse play area: Falls from high towers and walkways

**Risk:** Low

**Controls:** All walkways have U-nets enclosing them. Signs for parents and children warning not to climb on the U-nets or towers. Safety matting is installed where required.

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**Hazard:** Treehouse play area: Children getting limbs/fingers/clothing caught in play netting

**Risk:** Low

**Controls:** All netting is heavy duty and wide guage. Signs for parents and children warning not to wear loose clothing, clothing with strings or cords, and not to tie clothing to equipment or use clothes as support.

**Hazard:** Pram/Buggy store door - fingers being trapped if the door closes

**Risk:** Low

**Controls:**

Pram/Buggy store door has a latch up high to prevent the door being closed during opening times.

**Hazard:** Gastro Intestinal Infections from Treehouse Play Equipment

**Risk:** Low

**Controls:** All play equipment is regularly checked. Signs for parents and children asking them to report sickness, toilet accidents, and dirt on or near play equipment immediately. Antibacterial hand washing facilities are available. Outside and inside tables are regularly wiped. Signs for parents and children, warning that food and drink should not be taken onto the play equipment. Antibacterial spray and paper roll are always available in the Treehouse play area.

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**Hazard:** Overcrowding on Treehouse play equipment (leading to children crashing into one another/ smaller children falling over)

**Risk:** **Medium**

**Controls:** All Children must be accompanied by an adult. Signs in Treehouse play area

telling parents and children that staff reserve the right to restrict numbers in the Treehouse area. Signs for parents and children telling them to play cooperatively (taking turns, sharing equipment). Signs forbidding tackling, tagging, pushing, shoving, grabbing, pulling, knocking down, tripping, throwing or jumping on one another.

**Future:** Official guidelines limit numbers to one child per two square metres of play surface; however staff will assess safe limits, and deal with any over crowding.

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**Hazard:** Injury from outdoor toys, or other items brought into Treehouse play area.

**Risk: Low**

**Controls:** Signs in Treehouse play area telling parents and children that outdoor toys (bats, balls, buckets, spades, ropes, Frisbees), or other toys should not be brought into the Treehouse. All children who come into the Treehouse must be accompanied by an adult.

**Hazard:** Slips and trips on Treehouse play equipment and floor

**Risk: Medium**

**Controls:** Signs in Treehouse play area telling parents and children that food and drinks must remain in eating area. Eating area floor regularly checked for spills. Low slip flooring in eating area; safety matting and non slip paint in play area. Signs for parents and children telling them to play cooperatively (taking turns, sharing equipment). Signs forbidding tackling, tagging, pushing, shoving, grabbing, pulling, knocking down, tripping, throwing or jumping on one another. Sign for suitable footwear and clothing in the play area.

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**Hazard:** Splinters

**Risk: Low**

**Controls:** All equipment is sanded when installed. Regular checks to be carried out. Children should have suitable footwear, no bare feet, or socked feet.

**Future:** Signs to remind children to keep their shoes on.

Revised by Wendy Langston

Date 3/6/2010