

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. We endeavour to reduce these as far as possible, but always have to mind that in a fun, stimulating and education 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.

Hazard: Gravelled 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.

Hazard: Sandpit

Risk: Low

Controls: The sand is kept fairly low next to the edges, so that the risk of falling out is reduced, however some of the surrounding area is not grass and care should be taken that children do not topple over the edge. Children should be supervised at all times in this area. There is a notice up saying this.

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. Children need to be supervised.

Future: Sign about supervision to be erected directly in the bale area. Daily checks for wear and tear of bales and netting, and depth of straw, animals in area. e.g. nest, rabbits etc.

Hazard: Water Feature

Risk: Low

Controls: The depth of the water is kept very low with lots of pebbles in the bottom. The wall is high enough to stop toddlers falling in, but low enough to allow people to put their feet in on a hot day.

Future: Investigate a way to keep the water clean.

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.

Hazard: Zoonoses (diseases from animals)

1) E coli O157, passed from animal faeces via fingers into mouths

Risk: Medium

Controls: No build up of faeces in the petting pens and piglet areas. The gates and rails of the petting pens are disinfected every week. Washing signs and facilities are in place next to the pens. We give talks to visiting groups about hand washing.

Future: Sign to be put in Education Room and toilets about washing hands. Sign about washing any dropped object before returning it to the child. Sign about washing hands after collecting eggs.

2) Gastro Intestinal Infections

Risk: Medium

Controls: Outside tables are wiped at least twice a day 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: A sign needed about not drinking water from the fountain. Bird droppings to be cleared from the hand washing area.

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.

Future: Control infection amongst the animals as much as possible

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. Already tell school groups in preliminary talk.

Future: Put up hand washing signs in toilets by the sinks and on exiting the farm.

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.

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

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.

Hazard: Trampolines, falling, overcrowding or becoming caught under trampoline 2

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.

Future: Another trampoline is due to be installed. Trampoline 2 is to be refitted. Use Trampoline 1 as a younger children's area.

Hazard: Adventure Play Trail

Risk: Low →??Medium

Control: Safety matting is installed where critical fall height is over ½m.

Future: Check the equipment on a more organised basis.

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. The inside handle has been taken off the door in the shop so that children cannot get out so easily.

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

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:

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:

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.

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 a notice telling people to remain seated.

Future: Put cladding on the rail which is at head height. Ensure that all the drivers follow the above rules.

Hazard: Chemicals & Veterinary Medicines

Risk: Low

Controls: All chemicals are locked away from the public.