

**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 endeavour 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.

What is the Hazard?	Who may be at risk?	Risk Level	What is currently being done to control the risk?	What future action may be needed?
<p>Zoonoses (diseases from animals) E-Coli 157, Cryptosporidium, Salmonella, Gastro-intestinal infections</p>	<p>All visitors & staff but particularly children and senior citizens</p>	<p>Medium but low if handwashing is carried out correctly</p>	<p>1) No build up of faeces in the petting pens and piglet areas, as these are cleared away daily. 2) The gates and rails of the petting pens are disinfected every week and recorded in the vet room, as are the rails on the tractor trailer. 3) Hand washing signs and facilities are in place next to the pens. We give talks to visiting groups about hand washing. 4) Feeding of animals by the public is not permitted. 5) The risk of zoonoses is mentioned on the timetables and blackboards around the farm. 6) Any sick animals are removed from the farm to a quarantine area and are monitored. 7) School groups and parties are provided with the risk assessment & information sheets about how to avoid infections from the Farm before their visit.</p>	<p>Ongoing monitoring of any signs of contamination.</p>
<p>Bottle Feeding of lambs (in lambing season only Feb - May)</p>			<p>1) Pet lambs which are bottle fed and therefore more likely to suck peoples fingers are double fenced so the public cannot reach their fingers through the fence. 2) The lambs are brought out for "lamb feeding" with an informative talk regarding being safe around the lambs by the livestock staff prior to feeding commencing. 3) The public are also told to only touch the lambs on their backs and not anywhere near their mouth or nose. 4)The Public can only hold the lamb's bottle. 5) The public are on one side of the fence and the staff and lambs are on the other. 6) There is an extra temporary handwash station available in the Show Yard area where the bottle feeding occurs. This handwash is supplied with cold water only. The staff will encourage public to use the main hot handwash station on the end of the Show Yard, but if there are a lot of people they will also be directed to the cold hand wash station.</p>	

<p>Skin Infections such as ORF or ringworm</p>	<p>All visitors & staff but particularly children and senior citizens</p>	<p>Low if handwashing is carried out correctly</p>	<p>If there are signs of disease in any animal it is taken away from contact with the public immediately and is isolated with strict control measures amongst the staff to avoid the disease spreading to control infection amongst the animals as much as possible. Correct way to wash hand is displayed on posters in the toilets. Reiterated by staff during and after animal encounter sessions. The lamb feeding hurdles are made of metal to make disinfecting and cleaning more effective. A mobile cold handwash unit is used in busy periods.</p>	
<p>Uneven Surfaces around the farm - slips, trips & falls</p>	<p>All visitors</p>	<p>Medium</p>	<p>1) We put on the entrance ticket, which <u>everyone</u> receives, a note that there are uneven surfaces. 2) Constant monitoring of any worsening areas.</p>	
<p>Sandpit & traversing wall - falls from traversing wall, sand in eyes</p>	<p>All visitors but mainly children</p>	<p>Low</p>	<p>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. Sand depth is checked daily at the base of the climbing (traversing) wall.</p>	
<p>Straw Barn - Fire, injury</p>	<p>All visitors</p>	<p>Medium</p>	<p>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. Barn has a fire extinguisher that is checked yearly.</p>	
<p>Animals Biting, Butting or Kicking.</p>	<p>All visitors</p>	<p>Medium</p>	<p>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.</p>	
<p>Church Wood Walks - slips, trips & falls</p>	<p>All visitors</p>	<p>Medium</p>	<p>The woods are checked regularly for fallen branches or trees. Although by the nature of the walk the ground may be uneven in places.</p>	

Ride On Tractors push-a-long & pedal- falling off, bumping	Children	Low	The ride on tractors are expected to be driven sensibly with no banging, or running into one another. The surface is tarmac and could cause slight injury if a child falls off a pedal tractor but this would be minimal. There are smaller push along tractors for under 5s in a separate area to help prevent accidents between different ages. There are tyres around the tracks to stop the tractors being taken away from the track area. The signs on the track are circular or have curved edges to prevent head injury.	
Outdoor Trampolines, falling, overcrowding or becoming caught under trampoline	Children	Medium	The trampolines have been put into holes in the ground to avoid accidents with children falling off. There is a sign saying that children should remove their shoes, we recommend one child at a time and that children must be supervised at all times. One trampoline is solely for Under 4s. Trampolines checked daily for missing springs and damaged covers.	Try to find effective ways to slow down the deterioration of the edges of ground surrounding the trampolines - Aug 2023 discussions underway to update the area.
Adventure Play Trail - falls	Children	Low/ Medium	Safety matting is installed where critical fall height is over ½m. Trail is checked visually on a daily basis and recorded. Equipment is checked on a weekly basis and is recorded. Inspected by ROSPA representative annually and report made and acted upon.	
Car Park	All visitors	Low	The car park next to the shop is relatively small. Only group buses and cars with disabled passengers can park here. The queue for the entrance is roped off separating it from the car park.	
Nature Walk for Schools/ groups - slips, trips & falls	All visitors	Low	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.	
Pond - drowning	All visitors	Low	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.	
Lost Children	Children	Low	Church Farm is a small enclosed site. The staff all wear Church Farm tops so the children know who to go to. Once a member of staff is informed that there is a lost child, the person on the front desk is told so that they can ensure no children leave the site via the front door. This person will nominate a member of staff to check the indoor playarea & toilets. The outside duty manager is then informed, who then puts it on the whatsapp group for all members of the livestock team to see and so they can check the barns and outside playareas. Do not put the child's name on whatsapp, just their description and what they are wearing. Once the child has been found, this is posted on the whatsapp group and the person on the front desk is informed immediately.	Lost child meeting place at a central location i.e. front desk being trialled.

Tractor & Trailer Ride - bumps and knock to body & head	All visitors	Low	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. Driver carries a radio in case of any emergencies,	To make the track less bumpy, this is an annual task and is weather dependant.
Chemicals & Veterinary Medicines - poisoning	Children	Low	All chemicals are locked away from the public, in the Vet room or locked cleaning cupboard. Vet room has sign saying "Staff Only" on the front and back doors	
Treehouse play area: Falls from high towers and walkways	Children	Low	All walkways have U-nets enclosing them. Signs for parents and children warning not to climb on the U-nets or towers (On the Treehouse rules). Safety matting is installed where required. Inspected by ROSPA annually, a report made and acted upon.	Under 5s slide has had a design change to reduce chance of children falling from the top of the slide over the side - July 2018 - continue to monitor
Treehouse play area: Children getting limbs/fingers/clothing caught in play netting	Children	Low	All netting is heavy duty and wide gauge. 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. (On the Treehouse rules)	
Pram/Buggy store door - fingers being trapped if the door closes	Children	Low	Pram/Buggy store door has a latch up high to prevent the door being closed during opening times. This is latched by the duty manager before opening time.	
Large glass doors to the groups room	Children & adults	Low	Possible finger entrapment along the hinge edge of the doors. Due to the design of the doors it is impossible to remove this risk.	No accidents reported, continue to monitor
Toilet door to unisex toilets in the treehouse area - trapped fingers	Children	Low	A finger trap prevention strip has been installed on the hinge side of this door to prevent trapped fingers.	
Tree house - SHOES OFF POLICY	Children	Low/Medium	There is a "Shoes Off " policy in the indoor tree house with the aim to prevent contamination of the equipment from mud and possible animal faeces. The tree house is classed as a "Hard" play area usually meaning that shoes must be kept on but after discussions with ROSPA it is agreed to allow the removal of shoes. It is 15 years since installation so all splinters have worn off. Wood checked for splits which could trap fingers, fill with wood filler.	

<p>Gastro Intestinal Infections from Treehouse Play Equipment</p>	<p>All visitors</p>	<p>Low</p>	<p>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 (On the Treehouse rules). Antibacterial hand washing facilities are available in the unisex toilets next to the treehouse. 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. All play equipment and surfaces including the floors are cleaned every evening.</p>	
<p>Overcrowding on Treehouse play equipment (leading to children crashing into one another/ smaller children falling over)</p>	<p>Children</p>	<p>Medium</p>	<p>All Children must be supervised 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. (On the Treehouse rules)</p>	<p>Official guidelines limit numbers to one child per two square metres of play surface; however staff will continually assess safe limits, and deal with any over crowding.</p>
<p>Injury from outdoor toys, or other items brought into Treehouse play area. - slips, trips, falls, burns</p>	<p>Children</p>	<p>Low</p>	<p>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. The Under 5s area is limited to under 5s and staff are empowered to ask older children to leave this area. Signs to say not to remove toys from the Under 5s area thus preventing tripping hazards in the main treehouse & eating area. No food or drink is allowed in the under 5's area. Unused plugs to be blanked off.</p>	
<p>Slips and trips on Treehouse play equipment and floor</p>	<p>All visitors</p>	<p>Medium</p>	<p>Signs in Treehouse play area telling parents and children that food and drinks must remain in eating area. There is 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 (on the Treehouse rules)</p>	

Revised by Wendy Lemon 18/01/2024