


ACTIVITY RISK ASSESSMENT: RA37 Outdoor Learning Activities (for LWT reserves, third-party events on LWT reserves, or LWT activities on third-party sites)

All generic risk assessments must be reassessed on the day of use to ensure all relevant hazards have been identified. Any additional hazards must be assessed before work begins and check Event Organiser's RA.

Who is at risk?	Children and young people, parents, carers, school staff, group leaders		
Date of Assessment:	August 2022	Assessor/s:	Abi March
Review Date:	August 2025	Assessor/s signature/s:	

Potential Hazards	Risk	Uncontrolled Risk Level	Control Measures to eliminate/reduce risk	Remaining Risk Level
General Public on site and other safeguarding hazards	Risks of harm to children, young people and adults at risk	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clear site rules so that behaviour of visitors is managed Children to be supervised at all times by parent/guardians, school staff or site staff and volunteers • Children in small groups • Children undertaking activities in enclosed separate from public where possible • Outdoor Learning staff DBS checked • All Trust staff and volunteers completed safeguarding training • All Trust staff understand and follow Trust policy and procedures at all times 	Low
Lost child/children	Lost child/children	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children to be supervised at all times by parent/guardians or site/school staff and volunteers • Leaders at front and back of walking groups so that all stay together • Activities taking place in enclosed or specific areas, made clear to children and adults • Radio/mobile communication in place • School children in Hi-Vis at discretion of school staff 	Low
Vehicles and cyclists on shared paths at some sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Injuries from collision • Death from collision 	High	<p>On sites where vehicles/cyclists may be present:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • H&S talk before heading out to site so that all children and adults aware of potential of vehicles/cyclists • Staff on site are First Aid trained 	Low

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vehicle access control procedures in place including time restrictions e.g. delivery vehicles only between entrance and building unless guided through site • Cycling is permitted at some Trust sites, site rules in place to manage behaviour • Contractor activity controlled by Landowners to ensure competence and adherence to procedures 	
Uneven ground, logs, rocks and other trip hazards	Minor injury from slips, trips and falls	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff on site are First Aid Trained • Paths clear and marked • Hazard areas not used • Clear H&S talk at beginning of session and beginning of activity. • Areas with particular uneven ground are highlighted to participants by staff on site 	Low
Water bodies e.g. ponds/reservoirs: at some sites - deep water, strong currents, hidden structures, biological agents and cold temperatures (Including during the activity of pond dipping)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drowning • Shock (potential to lead to heart attack) • Hypothermia • Weils disease /leptospirosis • Minor injuries. 	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff on site are First Aid trained • Staff on site have radios/mobiles to contact Emergency Services, etc • Staff on site are Water Safety trained at sites where appropriate • At sites where there is low level ponds and higher risk of child falling in, an adult attending a family learning workshop to be responsible for no more than 3 children under 5 years • Adult:child ratio appropriate to age, needs and abilities of group and conditions on day • Children in appropriate clothing • Children and adults warned of risks of water with clear H&S talk at beginning of session and activity • Covering cuts and broken skin (including from eczema) and washing hands at end of activity • All participants reminded not to put fingers/hands in mouth/on face • Modelling of equipment and tools at the start of activity • Sites have towels/blankets to ensure anyone submerged in water can get dry and warm quickly • If pond water ingested, adult responsible for child given information on signs and symptoms of Weils disease/ leptospirosis • All participants reminded to wash hands thoroughly at end of session/activity 	Low
Animal work including minibeast hunts/ bush beating	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minor injuries. • Tetanus • Bites and stings • Weils disease/ leptospirosis 	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Site staff are First Aid trained • Clear H&S talk at beginning of session and beginning of activity. • Modelling of animal handling clear. Highlighted (with visuals) which cannot be handled 	Low

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ticks and Lyme disease at certain sites 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Modelling of behaviour and rules around animals to increase calm and safe behaviour • Covering cuts and broken skin (including from eczema), and washing hands at end of activity • All participants reminded of not to put fingers/hands in mouth/on face • Check skin for ticks at certain sites where applicable 	
Animals: geese, swans, deer, rats, cats, dogs (not at closed reserves) etc. and their guano/faeces. Animals present vary at different sites and times of year.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Toxoplasmosis • Ticks and Lyme disease • Weils disease/ leptospirosis • General sickness 	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On the day site checks and clear any guano/faeces from area where activities taking place • Hand washing facilities available • All participants reminded to wash hands after session • All participants reminded not to put fingers/hands in mouth/on face • Remind participants to check skin for ticks at certain sites 	Low
OPM (Oak processionary moth) – not currently present at sites but may change in future	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allergic reactions • Severe rash • Asthma attack 	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oak trees at all sites monitored for OPM and managed accordingly • Participants informed if OPM on site • Avoid using areas near low OPM nests for activities 	Low
Plants: toxic, irritant or harmful plants (Giant hogweed, nettles, bramble, thistles)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Skin irritation • Minor injury 	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Site staff are First Aid trained • Clear H&S talk at beginning of session and beginning of activity • Highlighted what to touch and what not to touch (visuals) • Plants also pointed out in habitat • Washing hands at end of activity 	Low
Trees: overhanging paths, thorns on saplings.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minor injury 	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trees and branches monitored and cut and cleared when needed • Participants made aware of any low hanging branches to avoid 	
Trees: falling branches/trees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Death • Severe injury • Minor injury 	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trees and branches monitored and cut and cleared when needed. • Area assessed after high winds • Sessions cancelled, and participants informed if high winds and storms forecast • Participants moved to safe location if winds pick up during session 	
Soil	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tetanus • Weils disease/ leptospirosis 	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cuts and broken skin (including from eczema) covered to prevent infection • Adults aware of risks and to monitor signs of illness 	

Litter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minor injury • Infections 	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff on site are first aid trained • On the day Site Checks for litter • Litter pick (with litter-pickers and gloves) and monitor throughout the day • If sharps discovered, use sharps kit and procedure for disposal • Inform participants not to touch any litter found and alert member of staff 	Low
Weather: icy conditions, strong winds, wet ground conditions, puddles, heat waves, etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Injury from falls • Hypothermia • Heatstroke • Hyperthermia • Heat exhaustion • Sunburn 	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School staff/Group leaders/Parents/Carers advised for children to wear appropriate clothing for the weather • Wet Weather Plans in case of severe weather • Gritting of paths when icy, closure of paths when have severe weather warnings issued (e.g. wind) • On the day Site Checks • Cancel sessions if high winds and storms forecast • Move activities to shaded area in extreme heat • Participants reminded to drink water regularly in hot weather • Provide access to taps to refill water bottles 	Low
Fire (general)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Death • Severe injury - burns • Minor injury - burns 	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff and volunteers aware of what to do in the event of a fire and the location of Assembly Points • Participants to be made aware of what to do in the event of a fire and the location of Assembly Points • Routine Fire Alarm testing and drills to be carried out in buildings • Signage, extinguishers and other fire safety equipment have been installed in buildings • Classroom/visitor centre has direct fire escape door to outside 	Low
Fire (use in activity)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Burns 	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff completed training in using fire • Fire safety measures in place • Fire blanket, water and safety gloves used • Fire lit in contained area (storm kettle, fire pit) 	Low
Cooking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food poisoning • Allergies 	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food hygienically prepared • Separate storage and washing • Allergies shared in parental consent forms- those food not used or present 	Low
Using tools and equipment including in woodcraft and engineering	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Severe injury • Minor injury 	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Site staff are First Aid trained • Tools and equipment checked by staff prior to use to ensure in safe working order • Adult:child ratio appropriate to age, needs and abilities of group and conditions on day • Tool use recommendations in Trust Safeguarding policy adhered to 	Low

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Other equipment appropriate to age • Clear H&S talk at beginning of session and activity • Clear modelling of tools and equipment • Children working in small groups with adequate supervision • Washing hands at end of activity 	
Den building, obstacle courses, etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minor injuries: scratches, cuts, bruises 	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clear H&S talk at beginning of session and beginning of activity • Site Checks on the day • Equipment appropriate to age • High levels of staff supervision • Washing hands at end of activity • Children to work at their confidence level • Site staff are First Aid trained 	Low
Tree climbing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Death • Severe injury: broken bones • Minor injuries: scratches, rash, cuts 	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1:1 adult to child ratio • Adult to talk with child about suitability of branches before climbing and to identify any unsuitable trees • Instruct child and ensure 3 points of contact between child and tree at all times • Child to use their own limits 	Low
Nature art and crafts, natural material collecting	Minor injuries.	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Site staff are First Aid trained • Clear H&S talk at beginning of session and beginning of activity. • Washing hands at end of activity • Participants clear on what and where to collect: modelling from staff 	Low
Outdoor play Play in mud kitchen/forest school area at certain sites	Minor injuries, tetanus	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Site staff are First Aid trained • Clear H&S talk at beginning of session and beginning of activity • Covering cuts broken skin (including from eczema), and washing hands at end of activity • All participants reminded of not to put fingers/hands in mouth/on face • Washing hands at end of activity 	Low