



Activity: Outdoor Learning Activities

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 noted on the session record.

Date of Assessment:	August 2025	Name of Assessor(s):
Review Due:	August 2028	Abigail March
Description:	For outdoor learning sessions for organised groups visiting LWT nature reserves (or third party site sessions led by LWT). See also <i>RA01 General Safety</i> .	
PPE and Resources Required:	A full up-to-date first aid kit must be available and a suitably trained first aider always present. Hand washing facilities are necessary and fire equipment if relevant (fire blanket, water, gloves).	

Hazard	Who is at risk?	How might they be harmed?	Uncontrolled risk level			Control Measures	Residual Risk Level		
			L	I	R		L	I	R
General public on site	Children and vulnerable adults	Mental, physical, sexual abuse	2	3	6	• Clear site rules so that behaviour of visitors is managed.	1	3	3

						- Children to be supervised at all times by parent / guardians, school staff or site staff and volunteers. - Children should be in small groups. - Outdoor Learning activities should take place in enclosed areas separate from the public where possible. - Outdoor Learning staff / facilitators must be DBS checked. - All LWT staff and volunteers must complete safeguarding training. - All LWT staff understand and follow Safeguarding Policy and procedures at all times.			
Lost child or vulnerable adult	Children and vulnerable adults	Injury Kidnap	2	3	6	- 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 the boundaries of which are made clear to children and adults. - Session leaders in hi-vis. - School children in hi-vis at the discretion of school staff.	1	3	3
Vehicles and cyclists on shared paths	Staff, volunteers, activity	Serious injury, death	2	3	6	H&S talk before activity so that all children and adults aware of potential of vehicles / cyclists.	1	3	3

	participants					- 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 LWT sites, site rules in place to manage behaviour. - Contractor activity controlled by site manager to ensure competence and adherence to procedures.			
Uneven ground, logs, rocks and other trip hazards	Staff, volunteers, activity participants	Cuts / bruises Serious injury	2	2	4	- Check paths before activity and remove / mark any hazards. - Hazardous areas not used for activities. - H&S talk at beginning of session and beginning of activity. - Areas with particularly uneven ground are highlighted to participants by staff on site.	1	2	2
Water bodies e.g. ponds / reservoirs	Staff, volunteers, activity participants	Drowning Shock (potential to lead to heart attack) Hypothermia Weils disease/leptospirosis Minor injuries	2	3	6	- Staff on site have radios/mobiles to contact Emergency Services. - Staff on site are Water Safety trained at sites where appropriate. - At sites where there are low level ponds and higher risk of child falling in - adults attending workshops should not be responsible for more than 3 children under 5 years.	1	3	3

						• Adult:child ratio appropriate to age, needs and abilities of group and conditions on day. • Children / participants should be in appropriate clothing. • Children and adults warned of risks of water with clear H&S talk at the beginning of session and activity. • Cuts and broken skin (including from eczema) should be covered with waterproof coverings. • Participants must wash hands thoroughly at the end of the session / activity. • All participants reminded not to put fingers / hands in mouth / on face • Equipment and tools to be modelled at the start of activity. • Sites should have towels / blankets to ensure anyone submerged in water can get dry and warm quickly. • If pond water ingested, the adult who is responsible for the child should be given information on signs / symptoms of Weils disease / leptospirosis.			
Animal work including minibeast hunts / bush	Staff, volunteers, activity	Minor injuries Tetanus	2	3	6	• Clear H&S talk at beginning of session and beginning of activity. • Demonstrate how to safely handle animals.	1	3	3

beating	participants	Bites and stings Weils disease Leptospirosis Ticks bites (Lyme disease)				• Highlight (with visuals) which animals cannot be handled. • Calm and safe behaviour should be modelled by LWT staff and volunteers. • Cuts and broken skin (including from eczema) should be covered. • Participants must wash hands thoroughly at the end of the session / activity. • All participants reminded not to put fingers / hands in mouth / on face. • Where relevant - advise people to check for ticks when they get home and what to do if they find them. See also RA01 General Safety.			
Animals: geese, swans, deer, rats, cats, dogs etc. and their guano/faeces.	Staff, volunteers, activity participants	Toxoplasmosis Leptospirosis (Weils disease) Disease	2	3	6	• See RA12 Safety with Wild Animals and Livestock. • Check for excrement in the planned activity area. • In case excrement is found, make site staff and participants aware of its location. • Do not remove unless adequate PPE available. • In case of accidental contact, wash hands immediately - ensure children do this too. • All participants reminded to wash hands thoroughly after session.	1	3	3

						All participants reminded not to put fingers / hands in mouth / on face.			
OPM (Oak processionary moth)	Staff, volunteers, activity participants	Allergic reactions Severe rash Asthma attack	2	2	4	- Oak trees monitored for OPM and managed in accordance with latest Forestry Commission guidance. - Participants informed if OPM on site and how to identify a nest. - Do not use areas near low OPM nests for activities.	1	2	2
Plants: toxic, irritant or harmful plants (Giant hogweed, nettles, bramble, thistles)	Staff, volunteers, activity participants	Skin irritation Photodermatitis Minor injury	2	2	4	- Site staff are trained in identifying toxic plants and check for these before session. - Activities to take place away from any known harmful plants. - H&S talk at the beginning of session and beginning of activity to share cautions with participants and highlight what to touch and what not to touch (with visuals). - Plants also pointed out in habitat. - All participants reminded to wash hands thoroughly after session.	1	2	2
Trees: overhanging paths, thorns on saplings.	Staff, volunteers, activity participants	Minor injury Head injury	2	2	4	- Trees and branches monitored and cut and cleared when necessary. - Participants made aware of any low hanging branches to avoid.	1	2	2

Trees: falling branches/trees	Staff, volunteers, activity participants	Death Severe injury Minor injury	2	3	6	- Trees and branches monitored and cut and cleared when needed. - Area assessed thoroughly after high winds. - Sessions cancelled, and participants informed, if high winds and storms forecast trigger weather warning as per LWT Adverse Weather Policy. - Participants moved to safe location if winds pick up during session.	1	3	3
Soil	Staff, volunteers, activity participants	Tetanus Leptospirosis (Weils disease)	2	3	6	- Cuts and broken skin (including from eczema) should be covered with waterproof coverings. - Adults should be made aware of risks and cautioned to monitor signs of illness and seek medical help if needed.	1	3	3
Litter	Staff, volunteers, activity participants	Minor injury Infections	2	2	4	See RA01 General Safety.	1	2	2
Weather: icy conditions, strong winds, wet ground conditions, puddles, heat waves, etc.	Staff, volunteers, activity participants	Minor injury Serious injury Hypothermia Heatstroke / Hyperthermia	2	3	6	- See RA01 General Safety. - Check weather forecast prior to the day / event / activity and cross reference with Adverse Weather Policy regarding site closure (where applicable) and cancellation of activities. - On the day Site Checks	1	3	3

		Sunburn				• School staff / Group leaders / Parents / Carers advised for children to wear appropriate clothing for the weather. • Have Wet Weather Plans in case of heavy rain. • Gritting of paths when icy. • 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.			
Unplanned fire	Staff, volunteers, activity participants	Burns Death Severe injury	2	3	6	• See RA01 General Safety. • Staff and volunteers aware of what to do in the event of a fire and the location of Assembly Points. • Participants, including children, 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 indoor classrooms. • Classroom / visitor centre has direct fire escape door to outside.	1	3	3

Planned fire	Staff, volunteers, activity participants	Burns and scalds Damage to nearby vegetation	2	3	6	• See RA08 Fires on Site • Staff must have completed training in using fire. • Fire safety measures must be in place. • Fire blanket, water and safety gloves must be available. • Fire must be lit in a contained area (storm kettle, fire pit).	1	3	3
Cooking	Staff, volunteers, activity participants	Food poisoning Allergic reaction	2	3	6	• See RA08 Fires on Site • Allergies / dietary requirements must be shared in parental / guardian consent forms.	1	3	3
Using tools and equipment including in woodcraft and engineering	Staff, volunteers, activity participants	Cuts, bruises Puncture wounds Serious injury	2	3	6	• 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 the day. • Tool use recommendations in LWT Safeguarding Policy adhered to. • Other equipment appropriate to age. • Clear H&S talk at beginning of session and activity. • Clear demonstrations of tools and equipment. • Children working in small groups with adequate supervision.	1	3	3

Den building, obstacle courses, etc.	Staff, volunteers, activity participants	Scratches, cuts Bruises	2	2	4	• End session if behaviour inappropriate. • 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. • Wash hands at end of activity. • Children encouraged to work at their confidence level.	1	2	2	
Tree climbing	Activity participants	Death Broken bones Cuts, scratches Bruises	2	3	6	• 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 encouraged to use their own limits.	1	3	3	
Nature art and crafts, natural material collecting	Staff, volunteers, activity participants	Cuts, scratches Bruises	2	2	4	• Clear H&S talk at beginning of session and beginning of activity. • Complete site check of area before activity. • Staff / volunteers to model what to collect and where from. • Children / young people advised not to collect / touch anything they think might be dangerous. • All participants reminded to wash hands thoroughly after session.	1	2	2	

Outdoor play Play in mud kitchen / forest school area	Staff, volunteers, activity participant s	Cuts, scratches Bruises Tetanus	2	2	4	- H&S talk at beginning of session and beginning of activity. - Cuts and broken skin (including from eczema) should be covered with waterproof coverings. - All participants reminded of not to put fingers/hands in mouth / on face - All participants reminded to wash hands thoroughly after session.	1	2	2
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Risk Calculator Key:

L i k e l i h o o d ↑	3	Medium 3	High 6	High 9
	2	Low 2	Mediu m 4	High 6
	1	Low 1	Low 2	Medium 3
		1	2	3
	Impact →			