

Risk assessment for evening visits to Rushall Farm during lambing (Brownies, Cubs etc.) sites & activities.

SITE NAME: Rushall farm	GRID REF: SU 589 726
OWNER: W. Cumber & son (Theale) Ltd	TEL. NO: 0118 9744 547
ASSESSOR: John Bishop 07803923842	
NEAREST HOSPITAL: Accident & Emergency: Royal Berkshire, Craven Road, Reading (0118 987 5111), Minor Injuries (Work Hours) West Berkshire Community Hospital, Thatcham (01635 273300) SITE ACCESS FOR EMERGENCY VEHICLES: from Scratchface Lane	

Important note: The greatest risk in visiting a farm is the transfer of disease from livestock to visitors (zoonosis). This is manageable with the correct procedures and by appropriate hand washing after contact with the animals. Hand washing facilities are available at both Rushall Farm (in the toilets and lambing shed) and at Rushall Manor Farm. Hand washing should be conducted using soap and water. The soap contains an antibacterial and is purchased from Bowak. Hand gel is not an adequate substitute. Water temperature at the hand washing facilities is checked and adjusted accordingly. It is imperative that the last thing visitors do is wash their hands. Shoe changing should be done prior to this regardless of what the coach driver would like. Boots that have been worn at the farm can be dipped in a Virkon solution. There is biosecurity. Other shoes should be bagged and cleaned at home (see below).

All visitors are told they cannot eat whilst the visit is in progress. All schools lunch at Rushall Manor Farm. Some schools will give their students a snack before the visit commences and this is supervised by both school and trust staff.

RISK ASSESSMENT FOR RUSHALL FARMYARD

HAZARD	RISK LEVEL (HIGH/MEDIUM/LOW)	ACTION
Loading and unloading children at Rushall Manor	Medium	Staff should be made aware of how children are arriving and whether transport is staying or going. Coaches and minibuses to the coach park. Cars to carpark and overspill in field Cones to be used to give clear indication to drivers Flourescent jackets to be worn by staff member directing traffic Children must disinfect their footwear and move in an orderly way to the tractor and trailer to be used for transport
Moving regular farm vehicles in and out of the yard	High	Staff awareness and training Child caution signs on approach to yard Adequate supervision of children Health and safety talk to all visiting groups
Contractors bringing machinery into yard	High	1. Child caution signs on approach to yard. 2. 'Children in Yard Max Speed 5MPH' 3. Adequate supervision of children 4. Health and safety talk to all visiting groups
Shed door opposite the sheep race and large metal door into sheep race	Low	Health and safety talk to cover that children stay with leaders and ask if unsure Metal door liable to be blown by wind, either closed or secured back with catch. Education staff to check
Dirty and dangerous surfaces on gates, sheep race, sheep pens etc.	Medium	Warn children prior to start of visit Staff monitoring on daily basis and cleaning where appropriate Hurdles to be jet washed the summer before lambing with an oocide Hands to be washed after contact (see above)
Hurdles in and around lambing shed not secured	Low	Make secure or remove from visited areas
General untidiness in orphan lamb area	Low	Clear this area each morning prior to visit
Brooms, forks and other tools in aisle areas in and around lambing shed	Low	1. Store away from paths in green barrels regularly used by children (liaise with farm staff) 2. Warn visiting school groups – advise caution
Medicine cabinet and assorted medicines close to washing up area	Medium	Store loose medicines in locked cupboard well away from children. Instruct staff to keep area free of medicines Health and safety talk Supervision of children when hand washing (see above).
Muck on floor in and around farmyard	High	1. Trust staff to monitor as part of safety checks and remove. 2. Boot cleaning at the end of each visit includes bio-security, this should occur prior to final hand washing. 3. Take adequate measures to prevent the spread of zoonoses. 5. As part of H&S talk we advise on what to do with footwear after the visit if boots cannot be washed/dipped on site. Essentially scrub with an anti-bacterial cleaner or in the washing machine. Reiterated at the end of the visit. 6. New biosecurity mats January 2015 7. Principle area to ensure that disease is not brought onto farm or taken off it is at the Manor Site 8. Children to dip boots when leaving the Manor site whether walking or getting on trailers. 9. Children to dip boots when returning to the Rushall Manor Site as they get off the trailers or return walking.
Muck on sheep hurdles from birds	Low	1. Trust staff to include on safety checks. 2. Warn children and conduct hand washing where needed. 3. Be aware of loose clothing, gloves and scarves that can get contaminated. 4. Take adequate measures to prevent the spread of zoonoses.
Muck on bars at cows	Medium	1. Trust staff to include on safety checks. 2. Warn children and conduct hand washing where needed 3. Educational staff to clean before visit. 4. Take adequate measures to prevent the spread of zoonoses.
Floor in washing up area	Medium	Education staff to clean before each visit
Cupboards in washing up area	Low	Chemicals stored high in locked cupboards. Cleaning products in locked cabinet in the static toilets farm

containing cleaning products		side and Manor site
Electricity supply to shearing implements	Low	Turn off electricity supply when not in use. Barrier erected when shearing.
Disease and hygiene around lambing shed	Medium	Signs warnings to pregnant women in place. Steve Waters to monitor health status of sheep flock and cattle herd in conjunction with Larkmead vet practice. Health and safety talk to all visiting groups Good procedures followed by staff (see health and safety notes and procedures set down in staff pack). Training of education staff by the vet in May 2013 to be repeated in 2018
Stationary farm machinery and other stored equipment	Low	Check regularly for loose and dangerous parts – ed. staff Ensure all machinery is flat on the ground or roped off Keys not to be left in machines when visits are on-going (NFU)..
Workshop	Low	1. Out of bounds 2. Door to workshop to be kept closed at other times
Diesel tank, risk of spillage	Low	Controls are in workshop which is out of bounds
Chemical store	Low	Keep locked (no harmful chemicals contained within)
Seed Drill. Spikes at rear risk of cuts & grazes, also at eye level for small children	Low	Health & Safety talk Children specifically told to avoid seed drill
Inputs, Processes & Outputs to go in a designated teaching area from 2018.		
Bales of straw and hay. Risk of children climbing. Risk of tires on top falling.	Low	Health and safety talk Trust Staff to check safety of stacks prior to visits Tire covered stacks are temporary and also children told to not stand beneath them
Bales of Silage. Risk of children climbing	Low	1. Health and safety talk. Signs erected to warn of danger
Blinds on lambing shed. Risk of wrapping up rapidly	Low	Health and safety talk Broken blinds replaced
Rats & mice	Low	All food to be stored above ground and, in plastic containers if possible. This advice given to teaching staff on pre-visit Cover this on health and safety talk. Poison in appropriate bait boxes only

RISK ASSESSMENT FOR AREA AROUND RUSHALL FARM BUILDINGS

HAZARD	RISK LEVEL (HIGH/MEDIUM/LOW)	ACTION
Path above chalk pit – rotten trees, steep banks.	Low	Tree safety survey 2018. All dangerous trees and overhanging limbs removed
Chalk pit – trip hazards especially when wet. Unstable trees and vegetation above chalk pit	High	Supervise access to the area – Hard hats must be worn if groups are looking closely at the chalk face.
Chicken house	Low	Be careful, no more than 2 children at any one time
Steep Bank in chalk pit field slippery when wet.	Low	Children told not to run down bank when wet

RISK ASSESSMENT - ACTIVITIES

HAZARD	RISK LEVEL (HIGH, MEDIUM, LOW)	ACTION
Activity: ANIMALS (sheep)		
E.coli & Cryptosporidium	Medium	Liaise with leader as to whether they are prepared for children to touch animals. If yes then as per usual wash hands immediately after contact with animals (see above). Covered in H&S talk. If children entering animal pens i.e. when orphan lambs are older then ensure boots are cleaned before changing shoes / getting on the transport. This must occur prior to final hand washing. As part of H&S talk advice washing footwear and clothing used at farm once home. If holding lambs ensure that these lambs are less than a week old and ideally single lambs or robust twins. Ensure children are not wearing gloves. Beware of easily contaminable scarves and clothing. Take adequate measures to prevent the spread of zoonoses.
Orf	Low	Farm & JST staff to monitor lambs for signs of Orf (lesions around the mouth & nose). Hygiene as above essential and make sure no child has broken skin on hands when touching sheep (covered in H&S talk)
Watching a lambing may result in fainting	Low	Monitor children and beware they could faint and fall possibly onto a hard surface JST staff first aid trained, during First Aid training children advised to mention to trust staff if feeling faint. JST staff looking out for signs of fainting
Dirty and dangerous surfaces on gates, sheep race, sheep pens etc.	Medium	Warn children prior to start of visit Staff monitoring on daily basis and cleaning where appropriate (see Spreadsheet) Hurdles to be jet washed the summer before lambing with an oocide (See Spreadsheet) Hands to be washed after contact (see above) Take adequate measures to prevent the spread of zoonoses.
Hurdles in use not secured	Low	Make secure or remove from visited areas
General untidiness in orphan area (March – May)	Low	Clear this area each morning prior to visit
Brooms, forks and other tools in aisle areas in and around lambing shed	Low	Store away from paths regularly used by children (liaise with farm staff) Warn visiting school groups – advise caution
Big barn doors not properly secured	Medium	Teaching staff to check that doors are securely fastened especially in windy weather
Farm and delivery vehicles moving around	Low	Speed restriction signs. “Children in Yard Max Speed 5mph”

yard		Farm staff to be made aware when there are groups in the yard Health & safety – make children aware of moving vehicles and instruct to stay as a group
Activity: PIGS		
Pig biting	Low	Check that the pig is amiable before letting the children stroke her. Food to be thrown on the ground rather than fed to the pig
Pig dung on shoes/boots	Medium	See highlighted section on shoe/boot washing.
Pig carrying zoonoses	Medium	Hands to be washed after contact (see highlighted section). Take adequate measures to prevent the spread of zoonoses
Activity: Sow & piglets		
Pig biting	Low	Seasonal activity. Children told not to put hands through bars
Slurry from the pig pen on shoes	Low	Pigs cleaned out regularly. See highlighted section on shoe/boot washing.
Activity: POULTRY		
Poultry faeces on shoes/boots	Medium	See highlighted section
Poultry carrying Cryptosporidium	Medium	Hands to be washed after contact (see highlighted section). Take adequate measures to prevent the spread of zoonoses
Activity: CATTLE		
Cattle charging / butting	Medium	Children not to enter the pens and coned barrier to be put up 1 metre away from cattle feeding troughs and gates prior to visit
Activity: COMBINE HARVESTER & MACHINERY		
Machine demonstration (occasional)	Low	Children instructed to stand together in a place visible to the driver, and to keep a safe distance from the vehicle in operation.
Stationary farm machinery	Low	Monitor regularly for loose and dangerous parts (spreadsheet) Ensure all machinery is flat on the ground or roped off Keys not to be left in machines when visits are ongoing (NFU policy). Farm staff briefed Jan 2013
Activity: FEELY BOX		
Allergies to contents	Low	Teachers asked about potential allergies beforehand and sent a First Aid form to return before the visit.
Activity: TRAILER RIDE		
HAZARD	RISK LEVEL (HIGH, MEDIUM, LOW)	ACTION
Overhanging branches and brambles on trailer ride routes	Low	Check for and remove any potentially dangerous overhanging vegetation on routes to be used that day. Frequently used trailer routes regularly maintained. (see spreadsheet)
Open sided trailer	Medium	Safety talk given by Trust leader before every ride to ensure children i) stay seated at all times when trailer is moving; ii) keep hands, feet and heads inside of green bars; and iii) hold onto green bars if necessary. Teachers and parents to sit evenly spaced between children in order for them to reach across if necessary. JST leader or teacher to sit at back of trailer, not children, with gate secured across doorway before departing Back window of the tractor always to be open and bell used to stop and start vehicle. Trailer driver instructed to drive slowly when children are on board, and made especially aware of very young children on a visit. Max speed 18mph on road, 10mph on farm tracks (see sticker in tractor cab) All trailer drivers in possession of Lantra certificate or suitably experienced (further training carried out winter 2018).

John Bishop 14th September 2019