

Risk assessment for Foundation & KS1. Farm activities at Rushall Farm including lambing visits but excluding potential habitat aspect of visit (see habitats & river risk assessment).

SITE NAME: Rushall Farm	GRID REF: SU 589 726
OWNER: W. Cumber & son (Theale) Ltd	TEL. NO: 07960 346889
ASSESSOR: John Bishop 07803 923842	
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 lamb 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, 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.

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	Medium	Farm & JST staff to monitor lambs for signs of Orf (lesions around the mouth and 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 Hurdles to be jet washed the summer before lambing with an oocide by Farmer 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 tidiness in orphan area (March – May)	Low	Clear and clean this area each morning prior to visit
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	Education officer or assistant education officer to check that doors are securely fastened especially in windy weather
Farm and delivery vehicles moving around yard	Low	Speed restriction signs “Children in Yard Max Speed 5mph” 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: MEETING 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
Pigs some distance from hand	Low	Additional signage reinforcing keeping hands away from mouths. All visits

washing facilities.		supervised
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
Poultry some distance from hand washing facilities.	Low	Additional signage reinforcing keeping hands away from mouths. All visits supervised
Activity: CATTLE		
Cattle charging / butting	Medium	Children not to enter the pens and told not to put arms through the bars
Calves loose	Low	Hurdles put up to prevent the calves squeezing through the bars.
Activity: LITTLE BLUE TRACTOR		
Sitting on tractor	Medium	1 child at a time Purpose made boxes to aid getting on and off – ensure box in position children told only to board and leave the tractor via the boxes Children told no climbing on the tractor. Felt on the new tractor steps January 2017. Non slip.
Activity: Machinery (More KS2 but occasionally used)		
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 Be aware of sharp points on machinery Ensure all machinery is flat on the ground or roped off Keys not to be left in machines when visits are ongoing (NFU policy).
Activity: FARMER STEVE'S YEAR BOOK		
Nettles around site	Low	JST staff to monitor and cut back regularly (see spreadsheet) and warn children
Wet logs	Low	Activity moves indoors in wet weather
Activity: FEELY BOX		
Allergies to contents	Low	Teachers asked about potential allergies beforehand and sent a First Aid form to return before the visit. Refresh contents regularly
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.
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 chain secured across doorway before departing. 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 driving license and have received in-house training
Activity: COLOUR PALETTES		
Overhanging branches and brambles on walk through Rushall Copse	Low	Route through woodland to be checked and cut back prior to visit. Warn children on approach to woodland
Trip hazard – tree roots, slippery leaves	Low	Children instructed move carefully in the woods and watch where they are walking at all times
Activity: BEES		
Bees in Observation hive	Low	Children supervised. Glass reinforced. Ensure no way bees can escape. Particular focus on the feeder area
The bee game	Medium	Potential trip hazard. Make sure played on the grass if outside or upstairs in the stable area
Egyptian beekeeping	Low	Ensure the honey slave isn't allergic to honey
Honey tasting	Low	Only after hand washing, ensure that no children are allergic to honey

Assessor: J. Bishop 14/09/19