

**Risk assessment for KS3, KS4 & older students. Farm activities at Rushall Farm including lambing visits but excluding potential habitat aspect of visit (see habitats & river risk assessment).**

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

HAZARD	RISK LEVEL (HIGH, MEDIUM, LOW)	ACTION
<b>Activity: LAND USE</b>		
Unsupervised small groups	Low	Ensure that every group is provided with a clear map and instructions are given as to where to meet and where not to go, folders only on path Lead staff to decide ability of group and decide whether unsupervised working is possible
Paths overgrown	Low	Monitor and clear paths before visit for any overhanging or obstructing vegetation.
Oaklands Yard	Low	Instructions not to enter the rear of the site but to look from the track Supervised access to demonstration kiln as required
<b>Activity: SOILS WALK THROUGH ANNIS FIELD/RUSHALL FIELD</b>		
Disembarking trailer on road next to gate into Annis field	Low	Staff to disembark first in order to check for oncoming traffic and stand in appropriate position for safe disembarking of the group. Instruct group to stand off road, next to gate. Trailer driver to assist if necessary.
Digging a hole	Low	JST leader to advise group as to a safe way of using spade; i) keep back straight when digging ii) not to jump with both feet on spade. (demonstrated by trust staff)
Ground conditions – clay soil very slippery and water logged in wet conditions	Low	Advise group of conditions and seek alternative route if necessary.
Livestock in field	Medium	Children to be instructed to behave sensibly and quietly and stay together when passing livestock.
<b>Activity: ANIMALS (sheep)</b>		
E coli & Cryptosporidium	Medium	<b>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&amp;S talk.</b> <b>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.</b> <b>As part of H&amp;S talk advice washing footwear and clothing used at farm once home.</b> <b>If holding lambs ensure that these lambs are less than a week old and ideally single lambs or robust twins.</b> <b>Ensure children are not wearing gloves. Beware of easily contaminable scarves and clothing.</b> <b>Take adequate measures to prevent the spread of zoonoses.</b>
Orf	Medium	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 <b>Hurdles to be jet washed the summer before lambing with an oocide by farmer</b> <b>Hands to be washed after contact (see above)</b> <b>Take adequate measures to prevent the spread of zoonoses.</b>
Hurdles in use not secured	Low	Make secure or remove from visited areas
General tidiness in orphan lamb area	Low	Clear 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	Visit leader 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” <b>Farm staff to be made aware when there are groups in the yard</b> Health & safety – make children aware of moving vehicles and instruct to stay as a group
<b>Activity: MEETING THE PIGS</b>		
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 carrying zoonoses	Medium	Hands to be washed after contact (see highlighted section). Take adequate measures to prevent the spread of zoonoses
<b>Activity: Sow &amp; piglets</b>		
Pig biting	Low	Seasonal activity. Children told not to put hands through bars
<b>Pigs some distance from hand washing facilities.</b>	<b>Low</b>	<b>Additional signage reinforcing keeping hands away from mouths. All visits supervised</b>
<b>Activity: POULTRY</b>		
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
<b>Poultry some distance from hand washing facilities.</b>	<b>Low</b>	<b>Additional signage reinforcing keeping hands away from mouths. All visits supervised</b>
<b>Activity: CATTLE</b>		
Cattle charging / butting	Medium	Children not to enter the pens and told not to put arms through the bars
<b>Activity: BEES (used primarily for bad weather)</b>		
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
<b>Activity: Organic Shop</b>		
Falling off the chairs	Low	Children told to sit on the chairs correctly
<b>Activity: MACHINES</b>		
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 Be aware of sharp edges and corners Keys not to be left in machines when visits are ongoing (NFU policy).
<b>Activity: Inputs, Outputs &amp; Processes</b>	Inputs, Processes & Outputs to go in a designated teaching area	
<b>ACTIVITY: WOODS (General &amp; for Woodland Walk)</b>		
<b>HAZARD</b>	<b>RISK LEVEL (HIGH /MEDIUM /LOW)</b>	<b>ACTION</b>
Trees and branches hanging over lane to Rushall Manor.	Low	Tree safety survey 2018 but report to JB any concern however small
Falling trees and vegetation over path around bonfire site (woods behind farmhouse) and more directly over bonfire site	Low	As above
Roots on path above farmhouse trip hazard	Low	Health & Safety Talk
Tree stump in middle of path above farmhouse	Low	Health & Safety Talk
Vegetation overgrowing path	Medium	Route through woodland to be checked and cut back prior to visit Warn children on approach to woodland
Slope in woods behind farmhouse – very slippery in wet weather	Low	*Monitor in wet weather. Don't run
Road Crossing	Medium	Children made aware of road and to walk not run Signpost erected. “Caution Road”
Bracken near path	Low	Children warned can cut hands
<b>ACTIVITY: TRAILER RIDE</b>		
<b>HAZARD</b>	<b>RISK LEVEL (HIGH, MEDIUM, LOW)</b>	<b>ACTION</b>
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. Report to JB.
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

		<p>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 received in-house training</p>
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**Assessor: John Bishop 14/09/19**