

WHITEHOUSE CENTRE LTD
HEALTH AND SAFETY RISK ASSESSMENT

S = Staff C = Contractors V = Visitors L = Livestock E = Environment

L = Low M = Medium H = High

Ref:	LOCATION / HAZARD	WHO MIGHT BE HARMED & HOW	EXISTING CONTROLS TO MINIMISE RISK	FURTHER ACTION TO BE TAKEN TO MINIMISE RISK	RESIDUAL RISK?
14	<p>EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES - SUMMARY RISK ANALYSIS</p> <p>All public areas at;</p> <p>Whitehouse Farm Centre North Whitehouse Farm Morpeth Northumberland NE61 6AW</p> <p>Tel. 01670 789 998 01670 789 571</p> <p>Email info@whitehousefarmcentre.co.uk</p> <p>Web www.whitehousefarmcentre.co.uk</p>	<p>S C V</p> <p>This document provides a summary of the types of hazards that visitors and employees may be exposed to and our approach to controlling these.</p>	<p>Fire checks are carried out on a regular basis, emergency fire procedures and various health and safety notices are displayed clearly around the farm. In the event of a fire, schools will be advised on procedures by their school guide or another member of staff.</p> <p>Three Fire assembly points are located around the Farm. A – Outdoor walkway near Goat Mountain. B – Go kart track C – Next to Porkies Parlour Pig Shed</p> <p>Fire extinguishers are located in all buildings. Café, Gift shop, Farmers den Soft Play Barn & Petting Barn have fire alarm systems fitted.</p> <p>The Centre operates a strict No Smoking Policy on site.</p> <p>Trained First Aiders are always on duty and First Aid equipment is located in the Café building.</p>	<p>Further information is available in our detailed risk assessments which are part of our Health & Safety Policy within a handbook that can be viewed on request.</p> <p>Emergency planning is kept under review.</p> <p>THIS VERSION ANALYSED BY: Heather Hogarty</p> <p>DATE ANALYSED: 14.03.2025</p> <p>NEXT REVIEW DATE: 13.03.2026</p>	L

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14 cont	EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES - SUMMARY RISK ANALYSIS	S C V	The Managing Director Dean Hogarty is responsible for Health, Safety and Welfare in operational matters. This guidance is supplemented within the company's Health and Safety Handbook.	Management to continue monitoring and reviewing progress. Emergency planning kept under review Reference to continue to be made to relevant HSE publications & Industry Code of Practice included for specific reference as listed attached.	
14.1	Responsibilities and approach to Risk Assessment	Any visitor; group leader, teacher, child, vulnerable adult or staff member is at risk from a full range of hazards	The Managing Director & staff approached the preparation of this assessment by i) Looking at the potential hazards when Educational/Group visits take place. ii) Deciding on who might be harmed and how. iii) Evaluating the risks and deciding on appropriate action to minimise such risks. iv) Recording the findings of which this Risk Assessment forms an integral part. v) Using HSE literature & Industry Code of Practice together with the company Health & Safety Policy Statement, Food Hygiene Statement and Animal Handling training notes	These assessments to be reviewed during February 2026, or earlier if changes to working practices / layout / equipment are being contemplated, or there is reason to believe that controls are not working. When planning a visit Group Leaders/ Teachers must be advised to arrange a preliminary visit to record their risk assessment and of the associated detailed documentation relating to animal zoonoses, control of substances hazardous to health (COSHH) assessment, fire and emergency procedures, all included in the company's Health and Safety Handbook	L

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14.2	Pre-visit organisation Insufficient group pre-visit preparation	Poor group organisation and inappropriate activity plans could increase risks from full range of hazards	Formal school booking documentation required. Inspection visits encouraged for teachers/group leaders to record their risk assessments in conjunction with this summary risk analysis and to see the layout of the farm and the areas a group will visit. Adequate adult/ children staff ratios are required All aspects of visit tailored to group needs In depth & interactive health & safety talk given at start of visit Structured tour for school guide to follow.	As per risk assessment findings. Management must continue to monitor Emergency planning kept under review At least one teacher/ carer must visit prior to the group visiting if they have not been to the farm before.	L
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14.3	Weather conditions	Children, vulnerable adults and people with certain disabilities are more prone to suffering from the extremes of hot, cold, wet & windy weather. Long exposure to sunshine Wind or chill exposure	During briefings staff emphasise the importance of adequate clothing of the correct type for anticipated conditions. Visits amended to only use buildings and covered ways during extreme conditions Constantly check wellbeing of group during changing weather conditions. During inclement weather group kept under cover In the extreme, visit would be cancelled or rearranged.	As per risk assessment findings Management must continue to monitor. Emergency planning kept under review.	L
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14.4	Slips and trips Walking on uneven or slippery ground	Sprains, bruises abrasions and in the extreme, concussion from falling over and/ or slipping on wet / uneven ground	Advice about suitable footwear provided on booking form. Careful choice of routes for visits. Care and vigilance exercised by group leader, teachers/ carers & guide. Alert group to hazard before approaching potential risk area. Always exercise close group supervision. Staff to monitor changing weather.	As per risk assessment findings Management continues to monitor Emergency planning kept under review	L
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14.5	Animal Handling/ Feeding Animals Farm animals biting/ scratching/ kicking/ butting visitors & staff	Puncture wounds, laceration, face or eye injuries, infection. Animals causing an allergic reaction or phobia.	Signage in place warning visitors of risks and which animals not to feed. Information on daily itineraries. Animals showing aggressive behaviour are removed from public area. Fencing & enclosures checked regularly and maintained. Clear instructions given by guides on how to handle and feed animals. Any cuts to skin cleaned & dressing applied.	As per risk assessment findings Management continues to monitor Emergency planning kept under review	L
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14.6	<p>Animal Zoonoses</p> <p>Exposure to animals - contact with animal faeces, urine, nasal mucus and /or blood</p> <p>Contact with gates/ rails around pens</p> <p>Dirty animal pens and fencing</p> <p>Generally, in farm park areas and specifically in the petting barn and when handling/ feeding animals</p>	<p>Contracting an illness [Zoonoses] from animals & birds.</p> <p>Zoonoses are caused by micro-organisms associated with farm animals.</p> <p>Anyone can be infected directly or indirectly during close contact with an animal and/ or its blood nasal mucus or faeces.</p> <p>Can also cause rashes, swellings, respiratory / asthmatic problems in some people.</p>	<p>Group leaders/ teachers/ carers given guidance during pre-visit briefings.</p> <p>Animal handling and petting barn activities carefully controlled.</p> <p>General guidance and Do's & Don'ts published on web site, in printed leaflets and group visit specific documentation. Signage displayed around Farm.</p> <p>Hand washing facilities located in all animal contact areas & all prominent positions around farm.</p> <p>All animals checked daily for signs of ill health. Any sick animals removed immediately from public areas.</p> <p>Discussed in H & S talk. [Continued on next page]</p>	<p>As per risk assessment findings Management continues to monitor. Emergency planning kept under review</p> <p>At least one teacher/ carer must visit prior to the group visiting if they have not been to the farm before.</p>	L
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14 cont	EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES - SUMMARY RISK ANALYSIS	S C V	[Continued from previous page] Public areas kept clean & monitored during the day Animal bedding regularly cleaned out. Pen rails washed daily with disinfectant. Visitors warned not to put their fingers in their mouth or eat until hands have been washed with soap and water. Quarterly vet inspections. Footbath available for washing footwear if deemed necessary. Groups taken to wash hands after contact with animals Hands washed with soap and water before leaving Farm Centre. Signs around Farm reminding to wash hands.		
14.6 cont	Animal Zoonoses [Continued]	Children and vulnerable adults more at risk		[See previous page]	L
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14.7	Lambing Shed (Spring only) and goat pens Lambing/ kidding ewes and goats .	Miscarriage by pregnant women after contact with an after birth infected with chlamydia and/ or toxoplasma which makes sheep abort their lambs. Whilst the risk is extremely small, we do insist on complete exclusion in order for women in this condition to remain safe whilst visiting the Centre.	Group leaders/ teachers/ carers given guidance during pre-visit briefings. Signage in place warning visitors of risks Ensure pregnant women do not enter lambing shed. All pen railings are disinfected each morning. Sheep at the Centre are vaccinated. Group taken to wash hands with soap and water after contact with animals/ animal enclosures.	As per risk assessment findings Management continues to monitor Emergency planning kept under review At least one teacher/ carer must visit prior to the group visiting if they have not been to the farm before.	L
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<p>14.8</p>	<p>Larger animals, (outdoor walkway or indoor barns in winter)</p> <p>Larger farm animals in outdoor paddocks and housed in barns. In the extreme, escaped animals entering public walkways, access roads, car parks and or play & amenity areas.</p>	<p>Sprains, bruises, abrasions, puncture wounds and in the extreme, concussion from being knocked over/ struck, bitten, butted or kicked by a larger animal</p>	<p>Large animals securely fenced off.</p> <p>Where appropriate gates to animal enclosures/paddocks kept padlocked.</p> <p>Animal pens, gates, fences and enclosures checked twice daily and properly maintained.</p> <p>Escaped Animal Emergency plan in place. Staff carry radios for rapid communication in emergencies Staff on duty whenever farm park open to visitors</p> <p>Health & Safety talk given at start of visit informing of correct approach to observing and feeding large animals.</p> <p>Children and vulnerable adults must be closely supervised by school guide, teachers, parent helpers. Group taken to wash hands with soap and water after contact with animals.</p>	<p>As per risk assessment findings Management continues to monitor Emergency planning kept under review</p> <p>At least one teacher/ carer must visit prior to the group visiting if they have not been to the farm before.</p>	<p>L</p>

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14.9	Tractor trailer ride Slipping off ramp on entering and exiting trailer. Wide range of hazards if measures to minimise risks are not followed.	Fractures, sprains, bruises, abrasions, puncture wounds and in the extreme, concussion or death from being knocked over/ struck by the moving vehicle, or falling from it. Trip and slip on the trailer platform or when entering or alighting from the trailer A pedestrian being struck by the trailer or towing vehicle	Trained tractor driver. Number of passengers always restricted to within maximum trailer capacity Mounting and dismounting strictly controlled and always under supervision Trailer and towing vehicle are inspected daily and serviced regularly. All wheels and operating parts guarded. Routes carefully selected over even ground and speed limits observed 10mph maximum speed limit maintained [Continued on next page]	As per risk assessment findings Management continues to monitor Emergency planning kept under review At least one teacher/ carer must visit prior to the group visiting if they have not been to the farm before.	L

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14.9 cont	Tractor trailer ride [Continued]		<p>It is advised that pregnant women should not go on the ride to avoid any risk to themselves and their baby.</p> <p>Staff will assist visitors on and off the trailer.</p> <p>Group Leader and/or Teacher and guide always travels with the group.</p> <p>At least one adult to sit at front of trailer one in middle and one at rear on each side and ensure everyone remains seated except when entering and alighting.</p> <p>Gate at rear of trailer is locked by tractor driver.</p> <p>HSE Leaflet AIS No 36 Carriage of passengers on farm trailers used for guidance</p>	[See previous page]	L
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14.10	Soft Play & other recreational areas	Children slipping, tripping, falling or colliding with others and sustaining sprains, bruises, abrasions and in the extreme, fractures or concussion	Up to date fully documented risk assessment for each area. Clear signage stating children must be supervised at all times. Some areas have age / height restrictions. Daily safety & maintenance checks scheduled and monitored by management Unserviceable equipment immediately withdrawn or coned-off to prevent use until repaired	As per risk assessment findings Management continues to monitor Emergency planning kept under review At least one teacher/ carer must visit prior to the group visiting if they have not been to the farm before.	L