

SITE RISK ASSESSMENT FOR POND DIPPING AND OTHER ACTIVITIES ON THE BERGH APTON CONSERVATION TRUST, WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO CHILDREN'S PARTICIPATION

Safety comments

This risk assessment is based on site inspection, knowledge of the site and programme content.

This assessment is intended to provide the basis of a safe operational environment for pond dipping activities on Bergh Apton Conservation Trust (BACT) land, with a general view on related activities planned to take place. The comments are based on a mixed age and ability participation group without special needs. It is based on the ready availability of first aid kits, suitably trained personnel in the supervision of children and an appropriate ratio of supervising adults and children. This will vary with the age group of the children concerned and the activities being undertaken. The following recommendation is taken from the NSPCC website (DATED April 2013)

* Age group 2 - 3 years: 1 adult to 4 children * Age group 4 - 8 years: 1 adult to 6 children * Age group 9 - 12 years: 1 adult to 8 children * Age group 13 - 18 years: 1 adult to 10 children. If the group is mixed gender, the supervising adults should include both male and female wherever possible.

The assessment assumes that the risk of accessing BACT land has been assessed separately for risk due to the variable impact of weather and environmental conditions (path condition, shrub growth, insect activity etc).

The following grid has been used to determine the risk rating:

Severity of injury	Likelihood of injury or damage		
	Very Likely	Likely	Unlikely
Major or fatal	9	6	3
Moderate	6	4	2
Minor/trivial	3	2	1

Risk rating 9 = Very High Risk

Risk Rating 6 = High Risk

Risk Rating 4 = Moderate Risk

Risk Rating 1-3 = Low Risk

Every effort must be made to implement controls and precautions which are deemed to be '**reasonably practicable**

Useful location references in case of emergency

Pond dipping platform

Grid Reference TM30852 99729

Church field parking area

NR15 1BX School Road (Old School House opposite church)

Grid Reference TM31153 99854

Nearest Road – across horse field from Valley Marsh

Bergh Apton Household Waste Recycling Centre

T Farrow Construction

NR15 1AU TM30867 99883

Nearest vehicular access to Valley Marsh, off School Road via unmade-up road, Gravel Pit Lane. Turn right at bottom of hill and proceed along private road between Hall Farm Barn (NR15 1AX) and Bothy cottage to Grid TM31035 99683 (before farm bridge crosses Welbeck stream)

Identified risk	Assessment of risk	Risk Rating with NO precautions	Controls/Precautions to manage the risk	Risk Rating with all precautions	Is the risk controlled
Falling into water (When dipping or walking around site)	Possibility of drowning in water.	4	Adequate supervision- See notes re adult child ratio. Adults and children clearly warned of dangers. Staying clear of visible edges to water. All children working in close proximity to adults. Throw-line or rescue pole available. No running on site.	2	Low Risk
Working next to water (When dipping or walking around site)	Waterborne illness. (Weils disease etc)	4	Clear warnings to clean hands before eating and drinking. No fingers near mouth etc when unclean. All open cuts covered with micro-pore tape or waterproof plasters. Waterproof gloves to be available if cuts are serious.	2	Low Risk
Unsafe trees	Head or body injuries due to falling branches	6	Tree risk assessment prior to activities. Activities curtailed if wind speeds exceed approximately 20 mph.	2	Low Risk
Wet and windy weather	Children and adults get cold and wet leading to hypothermia	3	Advise group to wear adequate layered wind and waterproof clothing and footwear. Leaders be prepared to curtail activity if individuals show signs of being cold. Shelter available (vehicles in close proximity of BACT land)	1	Low risk

Identified risk	Assessment of risk	Risk Rating with NO precautions	Controls/Precautions to manage the risk	Risk Rating with all precautions	Is the risk controlled
Sunburn	Children and adults being burnt by prolonged exposure to the sun.	4	Protect against the sun by covering sensitive parts of the body as appropriate.	2	Low Risk
Slips, trips and falls in local vicinity of pond dipping platform.	Cuts and bruises, twisted ankles	4	No running on site. Clear verbal warnings given. Access to be clear and obstacles removed. Adequate footwear to be worn.	2	Low Risk
Slips, trips and falls elsewhere on site	The site is uneven, with ruts, ridges, brambles, sticks and logs presenting a tripping hazard. Cuts, bruises, twisted ankles	4	No running on site. Verbal warnings to be given	2	Low Risk
Cuts due to vegetation. (sedge, reed etc)	Cuts to hands.	4	Clear warnings given. First Aid kit available.	2	Low Risk
Working with nets when sweeping for insects.	Hitting self or others with net or handle.	4	Clear instructions given on safe operational practice. All participants to work at safe working distances. Adequate supervision. See notes re adult child ratio. No running on site.	2	Low risk
Stings by nettles or stings or bites by insects	Pain, discomfort. Anaphylactic shock.	4	Clear warnings given, adults must all be made aware of risk of anaphylactic shock. First aid kit to be available.	3	Low Risk

Identified risk	Assessment of risk	Risk Rating with NO precautions	Controls/Precautions to manage the risk	Risk Rating with all precautions	Is the risk controlled
Unsupervised actions by children leading to injuries; such as climbing trees.	Children falling out of trees etc - injuries could occur. Trees have not been risk assessed for climbing safety	2	Adequate supervision at all times. Clear warnings given. Children not to wander off from groups.	1	Low Risk
Climbing on log piles	Danger of falling on or from the pile; danger of logs falling onto child resulting in head injuries, crushing or breaking of limbs	6	Climbing on log piles to be expressly forbidden	1	Low Risk
Cooking/bonfires					
General guidance					
1.	Risk assessment to be carried out before lighting any fire; dry conditions, wind strength and direction to be assessed and no fire to be lit if conditions are likely to cause damage or annoyance. Size of any fire to be appropriate to the assessment of conditions.				
2.	Location of fire to be selected so as not to pose a risk of spreading or of damage to trees/adjacent vegetation.				
3.	Material for fire should be kept small/short to allow size/duration of fire to be controlled, and avoid tripping danger.				
4.	Petrol and other accelerants not to be used in the vicinity of any naked flame.				
5.	Adult supervisors to be made aware of location of first aid kit.				
6.	A filled bucket of water to be kept near the fire in case of emergency/injury.				
7.	All participants to maintain a safe distance from the fire so avoid trip hazards and falling onto burning materials, and to pay attention to wind direction, working up wind to avoid smoke and sparks.				
8.	It is recommended that protective clothing – gloves, long sleeves, etc to be worn in the vicinity of the fire.				
9.	No running in the vicinity of the fire.				
10.	No plastics and only readily-combustible material to be burned, to avoid creation of noxious or excessive smoke.				
11.	Long-handled forks and rakes to be on hand to facilitate control of fire.				
12.	Fire to be extinguished before group departs the site.				

Identified risk	Assessment of risk	Risk Rating with NO precautions	Controls/Precautions to manage the risk	Risk Rating with all precautions	Is the risk controlled
Fire	Burning out of control or spreading.	4	General guidance outlined above to be followed	2	Low Risk
	Injury and damage risk from flying embers	4	As above	2	Low Risk
Smoke	Injury from inhalation; pain from smoke in the eyes, which can also cause disorientation.	4	General guidance outlined above to be followed	2	Low Risk
	Danger or annoyance to road users or nearby properties.		It is not envisaged that bonfires will be lit on the plantation; Valley Marsh is sufficiently isolated that observance of items above will control this risk	2	Low Risk
Other activities – treasure hunt, bark rubbing etc to be risk assessed on a case-by-case basis, bearing in mind the anticipated ages of participants and the adult supervision available					

Signed
Date