


## Risk Assessment: Generation Wild school visits

Site, department, work area	WWT Martin Mere Learning Department				
Task being assessed	Generation Wild school visits				
Risk Assessor/s	Chris Whitehead, Learning Manager				
Date of original Assessment	25/01/18	Date of latest Review	29/08/2025	Next review due	29/08/2026

What is the hazard?	Persons at risk who might be harmed?	How might people be harmed?	Existing Control Measures	Risk Rating With existing control measures L x S = RR			Is this acceptable? Yes/ No	Further Action needed to Control the Risk?	Risk Rating With additional control measures L x S = RR			To be Actioned by (Person & date)
				Likelihood of harm	Severity of harm	Risk rating			Likelihood of harm	Severity of harm	Risk rating	
Pond water	Children and adults	Infection into bloodstream or digestive system	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Before walking near open water, session leader briefs children to walk on the tarmac and not on the concrete or muddy edges.</li> </ul>	1	2	2	Yes	Further precautions to be followed in extreme weather conditions				
Water	Children and adults	Drowning (falling into ponds whilst walking around site) Hypothermia Cold water shock Secondary drowning (water inhalation) Zoonosis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Clear verbal H&amp;S advice given at start of visit</li> <li>Water bodies designed and managed to give a clear water's edge/delineation. Water bodies risk assessed.</li> <li>Duty First Aider appointed each day.</li> <li>Adult:child ratio help with vigilance</li> <li>Schools are not permitted to undertake canoe safari due to supervision ratios.</li> </ul>	1	2	2	Yes	Further precautions to be followed in extreme weather conditions				
Slips, trips and falls	Children and adults	Cuts, grazes, broken limbs, teeth.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The teacher briefs the children, using the information we have sent them before the visit, about hazards and safety rules.</li> <li>WWT staff and volunteers reinforce these during the visit (walk carefully, stay on paths, be polite to each other and other visitors, don't climb things, be kind to birds).</li> <li>Session leader explains about trip hazards, eg. logs and stumps in the wood.</li> </ul>	1	1	2	Yes	Education staff regularly check the Plum Wood, Small Wood and the roundhouse village for				

Soil, logs, leaves etc.	Children and adults	Infection into bloodstream or digestive system	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Session leader briefs the children, teachers and other adults not to let children put berries, mushrooms, leaves, twigs, feathers, fingers etc. into their mouths whilst outdoors.</li> <li>Session leader explains about the need to wash hands after the session/before eating, as appropriate, and shows the teacher where the hand-washing facilities are.</li> </ul>	2	1	2	Yes	trip hazards, scattered log plies etc. and take appropriate action to make the areas safe.				
Birds	Children and adults	Infection into digestive system	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The session leader (guided sessions) or the teacher (self-guided time) briefs the children and accompanying adults about how to feed birds from the hand safely. They tell them that some birds are behind double fences for safety reasons so children should not reach over. They should wash their hands as soon as possible after they have finished feeding birds and especially before eating.</li> </ul>	1	3	3	Yes					
Furniture	Children	Bruises and grazes from collisions with tables, benches.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Behaviour code of conduct included in the T&amp;Cs.</li> <li>Site staff undertake checks on furniture at regular intervals, to make sure it is fit for purpose.</li> </ul>	2	1	2	Yes					
Wild areas such as Wild Walk and reed-bed walk.	Children and adults	Injury from slipping on muddy surfaces, stings from plants or insects, ingestion of plants, impact injuries from outdoor furniture, falling off stiles.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Session leaders explain to teachers the potential hazards in Wild Walk and other areas.</li> <li>Session leaders explain to children not to eat leaves or berries.</li> <li>Session leader explains about nettles.</li> <li>Session leader explains to teachers about the stiles and mobile furniture in Wild Walk.</li> </ul>	1	3	3	Yes					
Weather conditions	Children and adults	Sunburn, heat-stroke or hypothermia from becoming wet or cold.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Session leaders offer shelter to teachers or provide alternative locations for activities.</li> <li>Information is sent to teachers to pass on to parents prior to the visit, with guidance as to suitable outdoor clothing and footwear.</li> </ul>	1	3	3	Yes					
Arriving and departing at coach park	Children and adults	Collision with coach or other vehicle	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Education staff ensure that coaches park safely (front to fence) on arrival.</li> <li>Education staff supervise arrival and departure of children.</li> </ul>	1	4	4	Yes					
Play area	Children and adults	Falling from or colliding with play structures or sharp objects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The play area is inspected by a competent inspector as per British standards.</li> <li>Martin Mere staff carry out a daily safety inspection.</li> <li>There are signs at both entrances asking teachers and</li> </ul>	1	4	4	Yes					

		in the ground.	parents etc. to supervise their children at all times.									
Visits by SEND groups	Children and adults	Adverse reactions to unpredictable behaviour or actions by members of the group. Onset of medical conditions or adverse reactions to physical impairments.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Group leaders are asked to provide us with information about any issues which might affect themselves or others during their visit. Education staff are briefed before the visit as to the possible implications of these issues.</li> </ul>	1	3	3	Yes					
Strangers	Children or vulnerable adults	Abduction or aggressive behaviour.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Teachers are reminded at appropriate times such as toilet visits that there are members of the public on site.</li> <li>The terms and conditions which teachers sign before their visit state that teachers are responsible for the health and safety of the children in their charge. Schools are responsible for providing appropriate child:adult ratios at all times.</li> <li>Staff and volunteers should be vigilant and alert to any suspicious behaviour.</li> </ul>	1	4	4	Yes					
Safeguarding risks	Children, adults at risk	Inappropriate behaviour, abuse, kidnapping	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>WWT safeguarding policy, reporting system and guidance in place and training provided to all WWT staff and volunteers</li> <li>If a copy of the policy is needed or education staff have any questions prior to the visit, please do not hesitate to ask your WWT contact. They can also ask the WWT safeguarding lead to contact you if necessary.</li> <li>Contracted learning staff all have enhanced DBS clearance</li> <li>Vigilance of all staff and volunteers (radios)</li> <li>Photography not allowed of areas/activities when children participating, unless consent has been given</li> <li>Good adult: child ratios to help with vigilance.</li> </ul>	1	5	5	Yes					
Use of giant nest	Children and adults	Falling from nest Tripping on entrance / exit Injury on	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nest securely anchored into appropriate ground, using carefully chosen materials and appropriate load testing carried out</li> <li>No fall from height risk identified due to design.</li> <li>Nest located so that it is surrounded by soft ground</li> </ul>	3	2	6	Yes	No				

		protruding sticks / materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Steel frame is coated and painted to protect against rust damage and the steel frame is protected by coppiced timbers.</li> <li>Step in place, clearly visible and safe entry and exit carefully considered in the design of the nest</li> <li>Regular checks of condition of nest and surrounding area carried out to ensure e.g. no protruding sticks, no development of impacted ground that would cause a trip risk</li> <li>The sides, back and front of the nest are covered by coppice wood and/or wooden board to fill any gaps to reduce entrapment risk. The base of the nest is covered by coppice with a minimal gap between bottom of nest &amp; the ground</li> </ul>									
Use of audio devices	Children and adults	Electric shock, collision resulting from inattention of surrounding environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Audio device casing is waterproof and the electronic components are securely fastened inside. Power output is very low</li> <li>Users warned not to walk around whilst audio is playing</li> <li>Devices regularly checked for signs of damage</li> <li>Translatorphones are checked in and out by visitor services staff and families are encouraged to let a member of staff know if they lose or damage the translatorphone they've borrowed</li> </ul>	2	2	4	Yes	No				
Use of listening post	Children and adults	Collision resulting in injury	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The posts are set back from main path with the tops angled away from the path, so people can pass freely without risk of banging into it.</li> <li>The posts have rounded wooden edges to eliminate any sharp corners.</li> <li>The metal interp panel is inset and are brightly coloured so easy to see.</li> <li>The post height is similar to the height of an average table, allowing for most adults and children over 5 to read it, and ensuring they are accessible to visitors in wheelchairs too.</li> <li>Listening posts installed securely</li> </ul>	2	2	4	Yes	No				
Blindfolded / eyes closed activities	Children and adults	Trips, collisions, cuts, bruises, abrasions, breaks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Person blindfolded or with eyes closed should always be guided by someone if moving</li> <li>Location of activities chosen to minimise surrounding obstacles and people</li> </ul>	3	2	6	Yes	No				
Activity using stones	Children and adults	Injury due to throwing Choking hazard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Children asked to place stones carefully and not to throw them.</li> <li>Children reminded not to put stones in their mouth</li> <li>Each group of children will have supporting adult during the relevant activity</li> </ul>	2	3	6	Yes	No				

## WWT RISK SCORING MATRIX

Consequence of Accident/Incident			Likelihood of Accident/Incident occurring					
				Extremely Unlikely	Unlikely	Possible	Very Likely	Almost Certain
Equip/Property	Injury	Disease		1	2	3	4	5
Insignificant Damage, no rework	Insignificant No lost time	Insignificant Not applicable	1	1	2	3	4	5
Minor Damage requiring rework < 2 hrs	Minor Injury with up to 3/7 days lost time	Minor Non – Disabling	2	2	4	6	8	10
Moderate Damage requiring rework> 2hrs	Moderate Over 7 days lost time	Moderate Disabling, but fit for normal duties	3	3	6	9	12	15
Major Damage requiring rework > 8hrs	Major Long term absence	Major Disabling, Unfit for normal duties	4	4	8	12	16	20
Catastrophic Scrap of Eqpt/ plant	Catastrophic Death	Catastrophic Death attributable to disease	5	5	10	15	20	25

## Emergency information

Location of nearest phone	Admin office in the main building
Local hospitals (emergency and non-emergency)	A&E Ormskirk (adults only) A&E Southport (adults and children)
Access points for emergency services	Controlled vehicular access to East side of the Education Centre.