Wiston Estate
Risk Assessment

Reference:

Title	Farm visits for groups	**Date Of Assessment**	Tue 31 Mar 2026
Site	Ecology	**Location**	Entire Estate
Risk Assessor	Penny Green	**Assisted By**	-
Non-Employees Involved	-	**People At Risk**	Visitors, Members of the Public, Volunteers, Children & Young Persons, Employees
Task Description	For hosting groups of adults or children		
Risk Rating	Medium		
Review Date	Wed 31 Mar 2027	**Reviewer**	Penny Green

Hazards

Hazard	Slips, trips and falls.
Risk Of Harm	Slip or trip injuries caused by slippery surfaces, tripping over items and poor ground conditions, trailing cables, poor housekeeping, obstructions on floors, uneven surfaces and changes in flooring levels.
Existing Control Measures	Staff make regular checks on housekeeping. Suitable access routes provided around farm. Spillages cleared up, spills kits in place. Floor surfaces are maintained, kept tidy, clean and dry. Trailing cables avoided and not impeding public and visitor walkways. Waste bins are in place to keep site tidy and litter picking carried out. Changes in floor levels are highlighted with contrasting paint where there are significant tripping hazards. Maintenance and repair roadways and pedestrian walkways conducted to reduce slip and trip hazards. Sufficient internal and external lighting is provided. Salt or grit in icy conditions on main pedestrian walkways. Regular site inspections are carried out by farm staff to identify and remove hazards and reduce risks. Sensible non-slip footwear advised. All visitors are advised to take care while on the premises. Group leaders are responsible for ensuring adequate supervision is provided at all times. An invitation for the group leader to visit the premises free of charge is permitted to enable teachers / group leaders to carry out their own risk assessments and to check suitability etc. All visiting groups must have adequate numbers of adults to supervise children, including extra provisions for special needs groups. Schools & similar are expected to follow levels of supervision recommended in current guidelines.

Hazard	Interacting with livestock and animals.
Risk Of Harm	Risk of injury from crushing, bites, pecks, gores from animals and risk of ill health from zoonoses from touching livestock or contaminated surfaces.
Existing Control Measures	Full zoonoses control in place – including risk assessment, CoSHH Assessment and Visitor Safety Plan. Compliance with the Code of Practice for visitor attractions. Double fencing in non-contact areas so there is no direct or indirect contact with livestock in dedicated contact areas, there is hand washing facilities and signage displayed. Regular checks and maintenance on fencing is conducted. Only domestic breeds are present on the farm (no zoo licence required). Regular site inspections are carried out by farm staff to identify and remove hazards and reduce risks. Group leaders are responsible for ensuring adequate supervision is provided at all times. An invitation for the group leader to visit the premises free of charge is permitted to enable teachers / group leaders to carry out their own risk assessments and to check suitability etc. Paths, gates, fencing etc. are regularly cleaned and disinfected to reduce the risk of infection from zoonotic disease and kept free from faeces and urine from livestock. The farm is kept as clean as practicable. Any “activities” arranged are supervised by trained staff at all times and following standard rules and procedures. Manure and compost heaps are stored in restricted areas not accessible to visitors and away from public contact. Newborn lambs / pregnant ewes are a risk to pregnant women and clear signs are displayed to avoid contact. Group leader must take responsibility to ensure children and adults wash hands when leaving animal contact areas. Group leaders to ensure there is no eating, drinking, chewing gum / sweets in animal contact areas. Group leaders are responsible for ensuring adequate supervision is provided at all times and to be aware the risk to vulnerable groups such as women of child-bearing age who are or may be pregnant, or those with an existing health condition is increased. Children are also of particular risk (under 7’s in particular) and when in large groups adequate number of responsible adults must be provided to properly supervise. Group supervisors are informed of the risk from children placing their fingers in their mouth and petting or kissing the animals and emphasis they must not eat or chew (including sweets) outside the food only areas, never eat food which has fallen to the ground or taste animal foods. The Group Leader should ensure cuts or abrasions on exposed skin should be covered with plasters to minimise the risk of entry by biological agents.

Hazard	Moving vehicles and farm equipment.
Risk Of Harm	Risk of death or serious injury from being struck by moving vehicles, falling from tractor trailer ride, and coming into contact with heavy machinery and equipment.
Existing Control Measures	Access is wide enough for visiting vehicles and ample parking is provided for cars and coaches. Traffic management signs are displayed throughout the site. Risk assessments are place – limited use of farm vehicles during opening hours and would be driven at slow speeds / flashing beacons and escorted where necessary. All staff driving farm vehicles are trained and competent. Tractor trailer route is in a non-public area and safety rules are documented and followed. Safe queuing area for tractor trailer rides. The tractor trailer ride will not operate during poor and adverse weather conditions. Farm vehicles are maintained safely, and daily checks recorded. Farm machinery and equipment kept away from public access. Group leaders are responsible for ensuring adequate supervision is provided at all times, especially in the car park. The Group Leader is instructed to inform the farm of their arrival prior to the group disembarking from the vehicle, this is to ensure arrangements for the visit can be put into place and children are not in the car park area waiting as there may be moving vehicles. All schools and organised groups should undertake their own risk assessment for the visit.

Hazard	Play equipment.
Risk Of Harm	Risk of death or serious injury from falling from or onto equipment and slipping or tripping. Injuries from faulty, defective or poorly maintained equipment and boisterous play.
Existing Control Measures	Rules of play signs are displayed in the play area. Higher risk attractions and play activities are supervised by additional trained staff. Third party inspections by an approved and competent body are conducted on all play equipment. Staff undertake daily, weekly and monthly formal checks on all play equipment including impact protection that is in place. A risk assessment for play equipment has been created and is subject to annual review. Relevant standards and guidance for all play equipment is followed. Defective equipment is immediately taken out of use, access is restricted, and signage is displayed until the equipment is maintained to a safe and sufficient standard. All play areas are in dedicated no animal contact zones. Group leaders are responsible for ensuring adequate supervision is provided at all times and that rules of play are acknowledged and followed.

Hazard	Insect bites / stings.
Risk Of Harm	Risk of death or serious injury from anaphylaxis. Risk of ill health from anxiety, panic, phobias
Existing Control Measures	First aiders and first aid equipment on are available throughout the site with a first aid room available. First aid kits are inspected. Wasp traps installed around the farm as required. Group leaders are responsible for ensuring adequate supervision is provided at all times. Instructions for contacting a first aider while at the farm is displayed and shared with groups.

Hazard	Plants, Trees, Weeds.
Risk Of Harm	Risk of death or serious injury from falling branches, tree Climbing, falling. Risk of ill health from allergic reaction, stings from nettles, poisonous plants, skin irritation, ingestion of non-edible berries.
Existing Control Measures	Tree safety management plan in place around the farm park to manage dead or diseased trees. Vegetation around the farm is managed to remove poisonous plants such as giant hogweed and to manage stinging nettles, brambles etc. in public areas. Mowing and maintenance of vegetation and trees takes place, irritant plants and weeds are removed where required & practicable. Group leaders are responsible for ensuring adequate supervision is provided at all times. Groups are instructed to call a first aider while at the farm if assistance is required.

Hazard	Ponds, Watercourses.
Risk Of Harm	Risk of death or serious injury from drowning and risk of ill health from bacteria.
Existing Control Measures	Pond is completely fenced and access restricted. Waterplay activity has no standing water which could cause a risk of drowning. Group leaders are responsible for ensuring adequate supervision is provided at all times.

Hazard	Food and Drink.
Risk Of Harm	Risk of ill health from food poisoning, food allergy or intolerance and zoonoses. Risk of serious injury from burns and scalds from hot food.
Existing Control Measures	No eating or drinking is permitted in animal contact areas and should only be in dedicated areas. Hand washing facilities are available and hand washing is required before eating and drinking and always on exit of animal contact areas. Dropped food and drink should be cleared up and/or reported to a member of staff. The farm has food hygiene controls in place (staff training, cleaning procedures, HACCP food safety management systems). Food allergen information is available for food and drink products on site. Group leaders are responsible for ensuring adequate supervision is provided at all times – including during refreshments. Hand washing when leaving animal contact areas must be supervised for children and group leaders must ensure children / visitors do not have sweets or drinks in animal contact areas. Group leaders must ensure the rules of the park are followed by members of their group. Group leaders should be aware of any special food requirements of their group members and to provide information to the farm catering staff.

Hazard	Zoonoses (diseases passed to humans from animals)
Risk Of Harm	Staff, Contractors, Visitors Serious long-term illness Fatality
Existing Control Measures	Additional measures for this activity: Tool talk given before entering shed/carrying out activity. • To include location of hand washing facilities. • Suggest hands are washed with soap and water after leaving the shed. • Explain that anyone pregnant or trying to get pregnant would be better to remain outside of the shed and not come into contact with sheep, lambs or afterbirth. • Not to put anything in mouth, and avoid putting hands in mouth until after washing them. "Maintain livestock in good health implementing (and keeping updated) animal health plans • Proactively treat where appropriate for infection prevention – eg fly strike, and treat infection promptly • Ensure good personal hygiene (e.g. wash before eating, drinking) • Wear suitable protective clothing such as overalls when handling animals if sick and gloves/waterproof apron if possibly handling infected material such as products of birth or muck • Wash and cover cuts and grazes immediately • Be vigilant about personal health; pregnant women must not associate or work with ewes that are lambing. • Hot water facilities including antibacterial soaps and complete wash down.

Hazard	Crushing, kicking, biting, butting or goring from livestock
Risk Of Harm	Staff, Volunteers, Contractors and Visitors Broken bones Punctured skin Cuts & bruises Head injuries
Existing Control Measures	Additional measures for this activity: • Tool box talk to be given prior to entering shed/joining activity. • No visitors to get into pens with livestock. • No loose animals in shed while visitors are present. • Fingers and limbs of visitors to remain out of pens to avoid getting bitten. • Only suitably trained and competent staff and contractors to handle stock • Staff/contractors must be trained to use handling and safety equipment (e.g. crush, pen, races, trailer, etc) • Remain vigilant and demonstrate an awareness of risks posed • Work calmly with a minimum of shouting/impatience/force • Equipment and handling facilities maintained in good order • Minimum of two people always present when handling cattle & ponies; one person can handle sheep, but be aware of manual handling techniques. • Vehicle and first aid kit close to where task is underway. • Hand washing facilities must be available to all individuals handling livestock – this can be via hand sanitiser and wipes if working remotely, hot water facilities with antibacterial soaps.

Hazard	Undue stress caused to livestock in shed
Risk Of Harm	Livestock, staff. Abortions, mismothering, stress
Existing Control Measures	–During toolbox talk to visitors told to keep calm, quiet and refrain from running around in the shed. –Members of staff on had to prevent this from happening and other members of the visiting group take responsibility for the group as a whole. –Anyone not listening to instructions or deemed to be too excited will be asked to leave.

Hazard	Veterinary medicines
Risk Of Harm	Staff and Visitors Inhalation Poisoning Minor illness
Existing Control Measures	Additional measures for this activity: –During toolbox talk it is mentioned that medicines are used and probably present in the shed. Please do not touch anything that you are not sure of. –Staff ensure medicines are safely stored prior to visit, any sharps are discarded in sharps box. –Store medicines securely in marked storage container / dedicated medicine fridge, and out of reach of children –Ensure syringes and needles are kept securely and spent sharps are disposed of in dedicated sharps boxes (to be collected / emptied appropriately at dedicated facility) –Only staff trained in the application of animal medicines are permitted to use veterinary medicines –Dispose of medicines appropriately –Wash hands before eating or drinking –Follow emergency measures recommended by manufacturer including PPE. –When applying medicines to livestock, utilise mobile animal handling facilities, for example use of mobile cattle race which has dedicated cattle head lock for example for safe application of medicine to the operative.