

RA026 — Beavers and young children (ages 5-8) visit

Naylor's Ark Soul Sanctuary · Risk assessment

Sanctuary CPH: 46/327/7111
Veterinary practice: 608 Equine & Farm Veterinary Surgeons · 01926 640 385
Partner / group: Beavers

Assessment date: 2026-08-10
Review date: 2027-08-10
Assessor: Liberty Naylor (Sanctuary Manager)

Activity assessed

Short, gentle introductory animal visit for young children with leaders and parent helpers.

Hazard	Who may be harmed	Control measures in place	Residual risk
Children straying, running or climbing	Children	Leader ratio minimum 1:6 plus sanctuary handler. Site perimeter and gates checked and closed before arrival. Head count at each area change. Running, climbing and fence contact prohibited and briefed at the gate.	Low
Zoonotic infection in under-8s (higher susceptibility)	Children	Supervised hand washing immediately after every animal contact and before any food. No food, drink, dummies or bottles in animal areas. No contact with animals in isolation, and no visits to muck heap or slurry areas.	Medium
Fear reaction or being knocked over by an animal	Children	Only small, calm animals used. Children seated or kneeling for contact, one child at a time with a handler. Larger stock viewed from outside the fence line only.	Low
Lost child or safeguarding concern	Children	Leaders retain register and emergency contacts. Sanctuary staff working with the group are DBS checked and never alone with a child. Photography only with parental consent held by the group.	Low
Animal-related injury (bite, kick, knock, trample)	Visitors, volunteers, staff	Only pre-selected, temperament-assessed animals used for contact. Supervised at all times, minimum 1 trained handler per 8 participants. No entry to enclosures without a handler. Animals unsuitable for contact segregated and signed.	Low
Zoonotic infection (E. coli O157, cryptosporidium, salmonella)	All participants, especially under-5s, pregnant and immunosuppressed people	Hand-wash stations with hot water, soap and paper towels at every animal area. Supervised hand washing after contact and before eating. No eating, drinking or hand-to-mouth in animal areas. Signage per PHE/HSE AIS23.	Low
Slips, trips and falls on uneven, wet or muddy ground	All participants	Route walked and checked before arrival. Sturdy footwear required. Wet or churned areas closed off. Spillages and hazards cleared before the group moves through.	Low
Vehicles and machinery on site	All participants	No tractor or machinery movement while groups are on site unless banksman-controlled. Pedestrian routes marked; parking segregated from animal areas.	Low
Fire or emergency evacuation	All participants	Fire evacuation procedure FEP-01 briefed on arrival. Assembly point identified. Head-count register kept by group leader. Emergency vet and 999 contact details displayed.	Low
Adverse weather (heat, cold, wind,	All participants	Weather checked morning of visit. Shaded and sheltered areas available; drinking water provided. Visit	Low

Hazard	Who may be harmed	Control measures in place	Residual risk
storms)		postponed for high wind, storms or extreme heat.	

Additional arrangements

- Emergency arrangements: first aider on site during all visits; first aid kit at the yard office; nearest A&E University Hospital Coventry & Warwickshire; site address and what3words displayed at the assembly point.
- Group leaders retain duty of care for their own members and must supply ratios, medical and consent information before the visit.
- All visitors complete the visitor waiver and assumption of risk before activities. Volunteers must have completed induction, the safety quiz and SSOW-01.
- This assessment is read alongside HSP-01 Health and Safety Policy, FEP-01 Fire Evacuation Procedure, RA015 General visit and feeding, and MAP-01 Site map.
- Review: annually, after any incident or near miss, or when the activity, animals, group or site changes.

Signed (assessor): _____

Date: _____

Group leader briefed (signature): _____