

RA021 — Supported visit for adults with learning disabilities

Naylor's Ark Soul Sanctuary · Risk assessment

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

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

Activity assessed

Structured, supported animal-contact and activity day for adults with learning disabilities.

Hazard	Who may be harmed	Control measures in place	Residual risk
Unpredictable movement, wandering or leaving the group	Visitors, animals	Support staff ratio agreed in advance (minimum 1:3, 1:1 where the group identifies need). Gates closed and site perimeter checked before arrival. Head count at each area change.	Low
Sensory overload or distress	Visitors	Quiet retreat area identified at the start. Visit run in short, structured segments. Noisy activities avoided; group leader may withdraw any individual at any time.	Low
Behaviour that could startle or harm an animal	Visitors, animals	Handler-led contact only, one visitor at a time. Positive behaviour plans shared by the group in advance. Animals withdrawn immediately if showing stress.	Low
Individual medical or dietary needs	Visitors	Medical needs assessment MNA-01 completed with the group before the visit. Support staff retain medication. Eating only in the designated clean area after hand washing.	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, storms)	All participants	Weather checked morning of visit. Shaded and sheltered areas available; drinking water provided. Visit postponed for high wind, storms or extreme heat.	Low

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): _____