

# RA041 — Animal behaviour watch

Naylor's Ark Soul Sanctuary · Risk assessment (Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999)

Activity: Home Education Hub session: quiet observation and recording of animal behaviour, body language and welfare indicators

Programme: Home Education Hub — Home Ed at the Ark, term-time Wednesdays 11am–2pm

Assessment date: 20/08/2026 · Assessor: Liberty Naylor · Review: annually, after any incident and before each new term

Site: Naylor's Ark Soul Sanctuary · CPH 46/327/7111 · Vet: 608 Equine & Farm Veterinary Surgeons · Read with HSP-01, SSOW-01, RA031 biosecurity and the Home Ed session safety and hygiene checklist

| Hazard                                                           | Who may be harmed        | Control measures in place                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Residual risk |
|------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|
| Prolonged standing or sitting outdoors while observing           | Learners, parents        | Seating and mats provided at each observation point; sessions broken into short blocks with movement between; shelter and shade used in poor weather; warm drinks available in cold months.                                                                                                                                          | Low           |
| Animals disturbed or stressed by being watched                   | Animals, learners        | Observation from outside the pen or at an agreed distance; no calling, feeding or reaching in; groups capped at six at any one point; observation stopped if an animal moves away or shows signs of stress.                                                                                                                          | Low           |
| Fence, gate and barrier contact while leaning to watch           | Learners                 | Learners briefed not to climb, sit on or lean through gates and fences; electric fencing identified and taped off before the session; observation points chosen away from stock gates.                                                                                                                                               | Low           |
| Animal contact — bites, knocks, treads, startling                | Learners, parents, staff | Only animals cleared for public contact on the roster; a member of the team present throughout; approach from the side, calm voices, no running or chasing; no head handling where the roster says so; no entry to paddocks with unsettled animals; RA015 general visit controls apply.                                              | Medium        |
| Zoonoses and infection (E. coli O157, cryptosporidium, ringworm) | Learners, parents, staff | Hand-washing with soap and hot water after animal contact and before any food or drink; no eating, drinking, thumb-sucking or phone use in animal areas; cuts and grazes covered; supervised wash station signed and stocked; RA031 biosecurity and zoonoses controls apply; anyone unwell asked to rebook.                          | Medium        |
| Supervision and safeguarding of children                         | Learners                 | Parents and carers remain responsible for their own children and stay with them at all times; learners never left alone with an animal or a volunteer; ratio confirmed at booking; DBS-checked lead on site; concerns reported to the sanctuary lead the same day and to the local authority safeguarding team within 24 hours.      | Low           |
| Slips, trips, uneven ground and weather                          | All present              | Route checked and swept before the session; suitable footwear and outdoor clothing stated at booking; wet or muddy sections coned or avoided; walkways kept clear of hoses, buckets and tools; shaded and sheltered space available; RA037 adverse weather controls apply; session shortened or postponed in high wind, ice or heat. | Low           |
| Allergies, medical needs and mobility                            | Learners, parents        | Allergies, medical needs and mobility captured on the family registration and reviewed before each session; seated and at-distance options always offered; families keep their own medication (inhalers, antihistamines, auto-injectors) with them; first aider on site with a stocked kit; MNA-01 medical needs assessment applies. | Low           |
| Emergency, fire or animal escape during a session                | All present              | Site safety briefing and sign-in at the gate before every session; assembly point, fire point, first aid kit and toilets shown at the start; gates closed behind every person; register held by the lead; incident, near miss or animal concern reported and logged in the app the same day.                                         | Low           |