

RA044 — Growing, hedgerows and habitats

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

Activity: Home Education Hub session: planting, growing, hedgerow study and habitat surveying around the site

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
Poisonous and irritant plants — ragwort, nettles, hogweed, berries	Learners	Nothing picked, tasted or eaten unless a team member has identified it as safe; ragwort and giant hogweed identified, flagged and avoided; gloves and long sleeves for hedgerow work; hands washed before any snack.	Medium
Thorns, brambles, scratches and eye injury	Learners	Gloves provided for bramble and hedge work; work at chest height or lower; eye protection for anyone cutting at head height; cutting tools used only by adults; first aider treats and records scratches.	Medium
Hand tools — trowels, forks, secateurs, loppers	Learners, parents	Tools matched to age and issued one per learner; carried point-down at the side; a clear arm's-length working space between learners; secateurs and loppers used by over-11s with direct adult supervision; tools counted out and back.	Medium
Soil, compost and manure — tetanus, toxoplasma, legionella	Learners, parents	Gloves for all soil and compost work; bagged compost opened at arm's length and away from faces; pregnant visitors advised not to handle manure or lambing-area soil; hands washed before eating; families reminded to keep tetanus vaccinations current.	Medium
Ticks, bees, wasps and insect stings	Learners, parents	Long trousers and socks for hedgerow work; tick check advised at home the same evening; known sting allergies declared on registration and auto-injectors kept with the family; nest sites identified and cordoned off.	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;	Low

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Emergency, fire or animal escape during a session	All present	first aider on site with a stocked kit; MNA-01 medical needs assessment applies.	Low
		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.	