

RA036 — Poultry and waterfowl care and avian influenza control

Naylor's Ark Soul Sanctuary · Risk assessment

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

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

Activity assessed

Daily feeding, watering, egg collection, cleaning and health checking of hens, ducks and other birds.

Hazard	Who may be harmed	Control measures in place	Residual risk
Avian influenza and DEFRA housing orders	Birds, people	DEFRA and APHA disease alerts checked weekly. Housing order compliance where in force: birds housed, feed and water under cover, wild bird access prevented. Increased mortality reported to APHA immediately.	Medium
Zoonotic infection from birds and droppings (salmonella, campylobacter, psittacosis)	Volunteers, visitors	Gloves worn for cleaning; hands washed immediately after. Eggs collected in a clean container, not washed in standing water, and refrigerated. No hand-to-mouth contact in bird areas.	Low
Dust and bioaerosols when cleaning coops	Volunteers	Coops opened and aired first, bedding damped down. FFP3 masks available and recommended for coop cleaning. No power washing while birds are inside.	Low
Pecking, scratching and cockerel aggression	Volunteers, visitors	Gloves and long sleeves for handling. Aggressive birds identified, signed and handled only by named volunteers. Visitors do not enter bird pens.	Low
Water hazards at duck ponds and drinkers	Visitors, children	Pond edges fenced or supervised; children within arm's reach of an adult. Slippery surfaces around drinkers cleaned daily and gritted in frost.	Medium
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

Hazard	Who may be harmed	Control measures in place	Residual risk
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): _____