

RA024 — Family respite visit including children and disabled visitors

Naylor's Ark Soul Sanctuary · Risk assessment

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

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

Activity assessed

Respite visits for families affected by illness or disability, including children and wheelchair users.

Hazard	Who may be harmed	Control measures in place	Residual risk
Young children in animal areas	Children	Parents or carers remain responsible for and within arm's reach of their children at all times. Under-5s must be hand-held in animal areas. Supervised hand washing after every contact.	Low
Immunosuppressed or medically vulnerable visitors	Visitors	Families advised in advance to seek clinical advice. Contact limited to healthy, clean, low-risk animals. No contact with animals in isolation or under treatment. Enhanced hand hygiene supervised by staff.	Medium
Wheelchair and pushchair access	Visitors	Route limited to hard standing and level access. Accessible toilet and parking identified on arrival. Staff escort over any threshold or gateway.	Low
Fatigue and medical events during the visit	Visitors	Visit paced with seated rest breaks and shelter. First aider on site. Families retain their own medication and care plans.	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): _____