



SITE & LOCAL AREA RISK ASSESSMENT

Last Review Date	September 2026
Policy Reviewer	Director – Kane Wilson
Version	V2 25/9/26
Changes since last review	-
Next Review Date	September 2027 (unless an incident occurs requiring an update to procedures)
Covers	Children, staff and volunteers

INTRODUCTION

This risk assessment identifies potential hazards and control measures associated with The Ark Smallholding Ltd site and the surrounding local area. It aims to ensure the safety and wellbeing of children, staff, volunteers and visitors by reducing risks linked to the premises, access routes, boundaries, neighbouring land, traffic, environmental conditions and other local hazards. Control measures are implemented in line with relevant Health and Safety Executive (HSE) guidance and safeguarding expectations for alternative provision settings.

Risk Assessment Matrix

Risk Level = Likelihood × Severity

- **Low (1-4):** Monitor
- **Medium (5-12):** Additional controls needed
- **High (15-25):** Immediate action required

IDENTIFIED HAZARDS AND CONTROLS

1. WATER HAZARDS - RIVER

Hazard	Who at Risk	Likelihood (1-5)	Severity (1-5)	Risk Level	Control Measures	Residual Risk
Drowning/near drowning	All users, especially younger children	3	5	15 HIGH	• Physical barriers/fencing along river edge • Clear boundaries marked • Constant supervision near water • Water safety briefing for all users • Emergency rescue equipment on site • Staff trained in water rescue	6 MEDIUM

Hazard	Who at Risk	Likelihood (1-5)	Severity (1-5)	Risk Level	Control Measures	Residual Risk
Slips on wet/muddy riverbank	All users	4	2	8 MEDIUM	• Non-slip pathways where possible • Appropriate footwear policy • Warning signs • Regular inspection of access routes	4 LOW
Fast-flowing water (seasonal)	All users	2	4	8 MEDIUM	• Monitor water levels daily • Restrict access during high water • Weather monitoring procedures	3 LOW

2. LIVESTOCK HAZARDS

Hazard	Who at Risk	Likelihood (1-5)	Severity (1-5)	Risk Level	Control Measures	Residual Risk
Kicks/strikes from horses	All users, especially those unfamiliar with animals	3	4	12 MEDIUM	• Supervised access only • Animal handling training for staff • Calm, well-trained animals • Secure enclosures • No sudden movements policy	4 LOW
Charging/aggressive behavior (sheep/goats)	Younger children particularly	2	3	6 MEDIUM	• Secure fencing • Staff supervision during animal interactions • Knowledge of animal behavior signs • Separate enclosures for aggressive animals	2 LOW

Hazard	Who at Risk	Likelihood (1-5)	Severity (1-5)	Risk Level	Control Measures	Residual Risk
Disease transmission (zoonoses)	All users	2	2	4 LOW	• Hand washing facilities • No eating near animals • Regular animal health checks • First aid protocols	2 LOW
Allergic reactions	Those with known allergies	3	3	9 MEDIUM	• Pre-activity health screening • Emergency medication protocols • Staff allergy awareness training	3 LOW

3. STRUCTURAL HAZARDS - WOODEN HUT

Hazard	Who at Risk	Likelihood (1-5)	Severity (1-5)	Risk Level	Control Measures	Residual Risk
Structural collapse/damage	All users	1	5	5 MEDIUM	• Regular structural inspection • Maintenance records • Professional assessment annually • Immediate closure if damage noted	1 LOW
Fire risk	All users	2	4	8 MEDIUM	• Fire risk assessment • Smoke detectors • Fire extinguishers • Emergency evacuation plan • No naked flames policy	3 LOW

4. ENVIRONMENTAL/WEATHER HAZARDS

Hazard	Who at Risk	Likelihood (1-5)	Severity (1-5)	Risk Level	Control Measures	Residual Risk
Extreme weather (storms, lightning)	All users	3	3	9 MEDIUM	• Weather monitoring • Indoor shelter available • Activity cancellation procedures • Emergency communication systems	3 LOW
Flooding	All users and animals	2	4	8 MEDIUM	• Monitor river levels • Evacuation procedures • Emergency contacts list • Alternative venue arrangements	4 LOW
Ice/snow hazards	All users	3	2	6 MEDIUM	• Gritting/salt supplies • Alternative indoor activities • Appropriate footwear policy	2 LOW

5. ACCESS AND TERRAIN HAZARDS

Hazard	Who at Risk	Likelihood (1-5)	Severity (1-5)	Risk Level	Control Measures	Residual Risk
Uneven ground/trip hazards	All users, particularly those with mobility is- sues	4	2	8 MEDIUM	• Regular ground maintenance • Clear pathways • Warning signs for hazards • Appropriate footwear policy	3 LOW

Hazard	Who at Risk	Likelihood (1-5)	Severity (1-5)	Risk Level	Control Measures	Residual Risk
Vehicle access/parking hazards	All users, parents, staff	2	3	6 MEDIUM	• Designated parking areas • Separate pedestrian routes • Speed limits on site • Clear signage	2 LOW

6. BIOLOGICAL HAZARDS

Hazard	Who at Risk	Likelihood (1-5)	Severity (1-5)	Risk Level	Control Measures	Residual Risk
Insect stings/bites	Those with allergies	3	3	9 MEDIUM	• First aid trained staff • Emergency medication protocols • Insect repellent available • Pre-activity health checks	3 LOW
Plant toxicity (if present)	Younger children particularly	2	3	6 MEDIUM	• Site survey for toxic plants • Regular removal of hazardous vegetation • Plant identification training for staff	2 LOW
Animal waste/hygiene	All users	3	2	6 MEDIUM	• Regular cleaning routine • Hand washing facilities • Protective equipment available	2 LOW

EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

Emergency Contacts

- **Emergency Services:** 999
- **Site Manager:** Kane Wilson 07754 315 387

Emergency Assembly Point

Gate next to car park

STAFF REQUIREMENTS

Essential Training

- First Aid
- Animal handling
- Water safety awareness
- Emergency procedures
- Risk assessment principles