

Risk Assessment

Location: Lesnes Abbey, Erith				Sessions and Dates: Habitats: pond dipping and using sweep nets to find minibeasts		Assessor: Stephanie Johnson		Assessment Date: 06/05/2026	
Hazard	Severity of Injury (1-5)	Risk Likelihood (1-5)	Total Risk Level	Measures to Reduce Risk	Severity of Injury (1-5)	New Risk Likelihood (1-5)	New Total Risk Level		
Injury caused from drowning in pond	5	3	15	<p>Main pond used for pond dipping has a barrier which reduces risk of children falling in.</p> <p>Children and school staff will be briefed before activity on how to behave around the water e.g. no running or climbing under the barrier.</p> <p>If alternative pond is used, which doesn't have a barrier, the children will be divided into groups and only one child per group will be allowed to dip along the shallow edge of the pond. Children will then take turns to do this. All finds will then be taken up onto the dipping platform or grassland area for safe viewing.</p> <p>Long handled nets will be provided to reduce likelihood of overreaching.</p> <p>All children will be supervised at all times by school and Lesnes staff. Any dangerous behaviour such as pushing will be stopped and children involved will be asked to leave the pond dipping area.</p>	5	1	5		
Worsening of injury through slow emergency response	4	3	12	<p>First aid kit to be brought by school and first aider to be present on site.</p> <p>Entrance to site will be kept clear of obstructions to allow for emergency service vehicle access.</p>	2	1	2		
Injury caused by slips, trips and falls	5	4	20	<p>Inspect site for hazards and inform and or point out/mark hazards to all members of staff and children.</p> <p>If possible safely remove hazards from working area.</p> <p>All staff and children encouraged to wear appropriate clothes and footwear. Staff to wear steel toe cap boots if working with heavy equipment or tools. Correctly store equipment/tools on site to prevent trips.</p>	4	1	4		

Injury caused through manual handling	4	5	20	Use of car/wheelbarrow to transport equipment to site. Heavy loads should be carried between a minimum of two people.	3	1	3
Injury caused through equipment use e.g. sweep nets, pond nets	5	4	20	Inspect equipment for defects, rejecting the ones that do. Demonstrate correct equipment use to all staff and children. Children to be supervised by an adult at all times during the activity and any dangerous behaviour will be stopped.	2	1	2
Tetanus, Leptospirosis (Weil's disease) and other bio hazards	4	3	7	Before start of activities give safety talk to class highlighting the various hazards e.g. stinging nettles, dog poo Hands should be washed thoroughly before any handling of drink and food, before touching their face and leaving site.	4	1	5
Hyperthermia/hypothermia caused by weather	5	3	8	Weather to be monitored before session and if necessary, the session postponed/cancelled/changed if conditions considered hazardous. All staff and participants to dress appropriately. Drinking fountains are present on site along with kitchen facilities and café. Stop work if participants fall ill, provide first aid and if necessary, call ambulance.	2	1	3
Hazards to the public	4	2	6	All equipment to be safely stored on site and not left in areas where members of the public could trip over them.	2	1	3
Personal attack	5	3	8	No one is to be left on their own whilst on site. All valuables to be kept out of sight and locked away. All children must be accompanied by a supervising adult if they need to leave the site/return to lodge.	5	1	6
Hazardous Waste/Litter/animal poo	3	5	8	Site will be checked for litter/animal poo and if possible, removed from site. If not possible children and staff will be warned. Before start of activities a safety briefing will be given, and children told not to pick up any litter/animal poo but to tell an adult instead.	2	1	3
Injury from vegetation	5	4	10	All staff and children to be briefed on any low hanging vegetation or vegetation that might be hazardous if they come into contact with it e.g. stinging nettles, holly, brambles. Low hanging vegetation will be removed from site. If there are any hazardous plants on site, the children and staff will be told of its location and encouraged to stay away from area.	2	2	4

Nearest Hospital:	Darent Valley Hospital, Darent Wood Road, Dartford, DA2 8DA
First Aider:	Stephanie Johnson
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