

Natural History Society of Northumbria

Risk Assessment for School Visit to Gosforth Park Nature Reserve

Name of person(s) carrying out risk assessment:

Date of Assessment:

People who are at risk: Children and visiting adults from school

1st Aiders: NHSN staff, plus any of school staff.

Nearest Hospital with A&E: Royal Victoria Infirmary, Queen Victoria Road, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, NE1 4LP Tel: 0191 233 6161

Hazard or hazardous events	Location	Who is at Risk	Typical uncontrolled outcome	Control measures
Slips, trips, bumps and falls while playing games, especially Owl & Vole	Woodland	Children	Cuts, bruises, sprained ankles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NHSN to clear away any fallen branches. • Children told of hazards. • Games to be closely supervised with appropriate child:adult ratios.
Slips, trips and falls	Paths	Children, adults	Cuts, bruises, fractures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children and adults are told in advance to wear appropriate footwear. • Children and adults are told of the hazards and not to run. • Children are supervised with appropriate child:adult ratios.
Slips, trips and falls	Boardwalks & bridges	Children, adults	Cuts, bruises, fractures, exposure due to cold water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children and adults are told in advance to wear appropriate footwear. • Children and adults are told of the hazards and not to run. • Children are supervised with appropriate child:adult ratios. • NHSN to inspect prior to visit.
Falling trees / branches	Wooded areas	Children, adults	Cuts, bruises, fractures,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NHSN to assess any standing dead wood close to and above any activity sites before any activity takes place.

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children and teachers are told of risks. • If weather is very windy then focus activity on lakeside path area.
Hides/Boardwalks Collapse	Lake area	Children, adults	Cuts, bruises, fractures, drowning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NHSN to carry out a check of hides and boardwalks before visit to ensure they are sound.
Snagging on vegetation overhanging footpath, etc. Reed stems in the eyes or up the nose.	Reserve	Children, adults	Cuts, damage to eyes, splinters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children and teachers are told of risks and given advice (eg to take care when walking around paths).
Bites/stings from insects/plants	Reserve	Children, adults	Rash, swelling, anaphylactic shock, disease.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children and teachers are told of risks and given advice (eg to wear appropriate clothing, bring medication with them if necessary).
Contamination/poisoning	Reserve	Children	Illness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children told not to put anything in their mouths from the reserve. • Children told not to eat any food until they have cleaned hands. • Baby wipes used to clean any hands of children who have picked up something they shouldn't.
Traffic accident	Outside Reserve	Children, adults	Cuts, bruises, fractures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children to be supervised when moving between their vehicle and the reserve entrance. • Children to be told to keep together.
Getting Lost	Reserve	Children, adults	Emotional distress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children to be supervised at all times and told not to go out of sight of any adults. • Head counts after every activity.