

Carisbrooke Castle, Isle of Wight

Risk Assessment for Discovery Visit Session

Activity: Water, Wells and Donkeys: Life in the Past Discovery Visit, Key Stage 1-2
 Duration: 90 minutes
 Created: 1 September 2025
 Review date: 1 September 2026
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Description and Notes

This risk assessment covers the Water, Wells and Donkeys Discovery Visit from when the group meets the facilitator, to the time when the session ends. It does not cover the walk from the coach/car park to the site or any aspect of your visit outside of the Discovery Visit. This information can be found in the Hazard Information on our schools page: <https://www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/carisbrooke-castle/school-visits/>

Hazard	Who is at risk?	Control measures	Risk after controls C x L = R		
Tripping on paths, steps and uneven ground.	Leaders, students, EH staff	Staff will verbally draw attention to the possible hazard. Students will be asked not to run and to be careful when moving around the site. Leaders and facilitators will monitor throughout the session. Facilitators will have received training to identify risks and inform education groups of potential hazards.	2	2	4
Handling objects. The risk of ingestion.	Students	Where appropriate objects will be in sealed viewing containers. Students will be supervised at all times.	1	1	1
Being in close proximity to a donkey, risk of being kicked or bitten.	Leaders, students, EH staff	All donkeys are managed and supervised by trained members of the Carisbrooke Stables team. Visitors are warned that donkeys are animals that can bite and reminded how to behave when near the animals. All groups will be supervised throughout the duration of the workshop.	2	2	4
Panic in darkened or enclosed spaces.	Students	Site staff will check with school staff before turning off electric lights in Well House. Students will be prepared verbally for what will happen and night lights will be turned on before electric lights are turned off.	1	1	2

Risk Assessments for Discovery Visits

Risk = consequence x likelihood in the context of a task i.e. when undertaking this task how bad could it be if it went wrong (almost regardless of whether it would) and what are the chances of it going wrong. They are both qualitative judgements based on objective data.

The Consequence Evaluation

The data you need to evaluate consequence (in the context of the task) are:

- Hazard - the thing with the potential to cause harm.

Consequence is graded on the three point scale where:

- 3 is death or life changing injuries
- 1 is first aid treatable injuries
- 2 is everything else.

The Likelihood Evaluation

Local knowledge/information will help judge the chances of the accident happening. It will include things like:

- Frequency and duration
- Numbers of people, vulnerable people
- The environment the activity is carried out in e.g. inside/outside, time of day, weather, distractions
- Accident/incident history
- Controls/supervision
- The equipment involved and its level of maintenance
- Anything else relevant to the likelihood evaluation.

It is not necessary to try to collect every piece of data that might have an effect on the likelihood; we just need to collect the most important pieces of data.

Likelihood is graded on the English Heritage three point scale where:

- 3 is almost certain to occur
- 1 means we would be surprised if the accident happened
- 2 is everything else.

Risk

Risk is calculated by multiplying the consequence rating by the likelihood rating giving potential risk ratings of:

- High (6 and 9)
- Medium (3 and 4)
- Low (1 and 2).