

Stonehenge, Wiltshire

Risk Assessment for Discovery Visit Session

Activity: Back to the Stone Age: Neolithic Skills at Stonehenge Discovery Visit, Key Stage 2
 Duration: 90 minutes
 Created: 1 September 2026
 Review date: 1 September 2027
 Prepared by: Learning and Participation Officer (Stonehenge)

Description and Notes

This risk assessment covers the Back to the Stone Age: Neolithic Skills at Stonehenge 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](#).

Hazard	Who is at risk?	Control measures	Risk after controls C x L = R		
Object handling in the Neolithic Hall	EH facilitators, Leaders, Learners	Appropriate supervision ratios are required at all times. Group leaders must manage student activity and behaviour at all times. Students are instructed how to handle objects safely are seated when lifting and holding objects. Replica tools have blunt edges and tips. Facilitators will have received training to identify risk and inform groups of potential hazards.	2	1	2
Small crafting objects	EH facilitators, Leaders, Learners	Facilitators will ensure all the group are aware of the small crafting objects e.g. Shells. Facilitators will tell Leaders and Learners that these items might be sharp and not to put in their mouths. Leaders will need to ensure the Learners are always supervised during the use of these items.	3	1	3
Laminated flashcards pouch and cardboard	EH facilitators, Leaders, Learners	Facilitators will hand out laminated flashcards and cardboard to the Leaders. Facilitators will ensure Leaders are aware that there could be sharp edges on the flashcards and cardboard and to make sure the Learners are careful when doing activities including the flashcards.	1	1	1
Use of small wooden sticks	EH facilitators, Leaders, Learners	Facilitators will ask all Leaders and Learners to be aware that the wooden sticks they will use for crafting could be harmful if	2	1	2

		not handled correctly. Supervision will be needed throughout this activity to ensure no injuries occur e.g. a wooden stick being poked in the eye.			
Use of clay and paint	EH facilitators, Leaders, Learners	Facilitators to instruct that the clay and paint is not to be ingested. Supervision will be required from Leaders and Facilitators of the Learners throughout the activity. The Learners will be using paints and clay products that are from a reputable supplier.	2	1	2
Sprang weaving	EH Facilitators, Leaders, Learners	Facilitators will instruct Leaders and Learners on how to complete the sprang weaving activity. Facilitators will inform the Leaders and Learners that they need to be careful when doing the weaving due to the risk of trapping their fingers.	2	1	2
Residue on hands due to Neolithic Hall floor and activity materials	EH facilitators, Leaders, Learners	Facilitators will explain to Leaders and Learners that due to the authentic nature of the Neolithic Hall that they will get residue on their hands due to a chalk floor and the activities they will complete as part of the session. Facilitators will tell all to avoid putting their hands in their mouth. Hands should be washed at the end of the session. Wet wipes can be used during the session if required.	2	1	2
Fencing around the Neolithic Hall	EH facilitators, Leaders, Learners	EH Facilitators will follow a prescribed route to the Neolithic Hall and will advise Leaders and Learners to follow the route. Leaders will need to supervise Learners at all times when accessing the Neolithic Hall.	2	2	4
Bench seating cabinets	EH Facilitators, Leaders, Learners	EH Facilitators will ask Leaders to ensure that the Learners do not attempt to lift up the lids of the seat as they are heavy and fingers could get trapped. Supervision in the Hall will be needed at all times.	2	2	4
Risk of slips, trips and falls when rotating around the Neolithic Hall.	EH facilitators, Leaders, Learners	Facilitators will verbally draw attention to potential hazards in the space to Leaders and Learners. Ensure all taking part	2	2	4

		know which direction they will rotate to each workstations and to walk when they do so and be careful of potential hazards.			
Risk of splinters from exposed wood	EH Facilitators, Leaders, Learners	Due to the nature of the build, we have exposed wood. EH Facilitators will make Leaders aware. Supervision at all times.	2	2	4
Uneven footing and ground obstructions.	EH facilitators, Leaders, Learners	Appropriate supervision ratios are required at all times. Leaders must manage Learner activity and behaviour at all times. Running is not permitted on the site. Movement on site follows designated paths wherever possible and verbal warning of specific hazards will be given during the session. Walking or climbing on wood piles is not permitted.	2	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).