

Stonehenge, Wiltshire

Risk Assessment for Discovery Visit Session

Activity: Stones and Bones Discovery Visit, Key Stage 2
 Duration: 120 minutes
 Created: 1 September 2025
 Review date: 1 September 2026
 Prepared by: Learning and Participation Officer (Stonehenge & Old Sarum)

Description and Notes

This risk assessment covers the Stones and Bones 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		
Handling replica objects.	EH Facilitators, Leaders, Learners	Leaders must manage learner's activity and behaviour at all times. Facilitators will wear gloves or ensure objects used for demonstration as part of the delivery are cleaned or quarantined appropriately. Facilitators, Leaders and Learners will sanitise hands before handling any replicas. Replica tools and weapons have blunt edges and tips.	2	1	2
Moving vehicles and vehicle accidents.	EH Facilitators, Leaders, Learners	Appropriate supervision ratios are required at all times. Leaders must manage learner's activity and behaviour at all times. There is a queuing system with barriers on both bus platforms, with staff managing queues and access to buses. There is a sign posted maximum speed of 20mph on site. The buses meet all current road safety standards and all bus drivers hold a PSV licence.	3	1	3
Contact with electric fence.	EH Facilitators, Leaders, Learners	Appropriate supervision ratios are required at all times. Leaders must manage learners' activity and behaviour at all times. Warnings will be given not to touch electric fences. Walking routes avoid areas with electric fences and facilitators will be informed of any new fences.	1	1	1

Uneven footing and ground obstructions.	EH Facilitators, Leaders, Learners	Appropriate supervision ratios are required at all times. Leaders must manage learners' activity and behaviour at all times. Running is not permitted in the Education Room or 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
Presence of livestock in the landscape and animal faeces.	EH Facilitators, Leaders, Learners	Appropriate supervision ratios are required at all times. Group leaders must manage student activity and behaviour at all times. Walking routes avoiding areas with livestock can be requested. Distance from animals is always maintained, especially if they have young. Approaching or chasing animals is not permitted. The dangers of touching excrement are explained. Students are told not to touch their faces if they have been in contact with a bio-hazardous substance and to wash their hands thoroughly on returning to the visitor centre.	2	1	2
Students getting lost/separated from the group.	Learners	Appropriate supervision ratios are required at all times. Coloured wristbands identify students from education groups and there are clear site procedures in place for missing children.	2	1	2
Severe/adverse weather.	EH Facilitators, Leaders, Learners	The group is informed in advance to dress appropriately for the weather (heat, cold, wind, rain, sun). This session takes place entirely outdoors.	1	2	2
Bites and stings.	EH Facilitators, Leaders, Learners	Accompanying adults will carry necessary medication for any students with allergies. EH facilitators will be aware of any unusual insect activity on site. Dogs may be off leash; please do not approach them.	3	1	3
Thistles and long grasses	EH Facilitators, Leaders, Learners	The group is informed in advance to dress appropriately for the landscape (trousers, closed-toe footwear). Movement on site follows designated paths wherever	1	1	1

		possible and verbal warning of specific hazards will be given during the session.			
Emergency situation at the property	EH Facilitators, Leaders, Learners	In case of an emergency the EH property team will inform the EH facilitator about the appropriate actions and will take control of the situational response. The teacher will be expected to have oversight and control of their class to allow for the most effective response.	3	1	3
Protest at Stonehenge	EH Facilitators, Leaders, Learners	Due to A303 tunnel, there is a higher risk of protestors coming onto the property via the landscape. Protests are generally peaceful in nature and focused on the monument itself. Training and emergency response measures are in place for protests at Stonehenge and surrounding environs. Emergency protocols are to be followed in this instance with the EH facilitator connected to their radio at all times.	1	2	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).