York Cold War Bunker, York
Risk Assessment for Discovery Visit Session

Activity: Hot War, Cold War, Key Stages 3 - 5
Duration: 60 mins
Created: 1 September 2025
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Description and Notes
This risk assessment covers the Hot War, Cold War 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		
Outside stairs, inside stairs are steep and there are raised door lintels which present a trip hazard.	Leaders, students, EH staff	Warn group of hazards before entering building and climbing steps. Ask them to walk at all times.	2	1	2
Potential to bang head or poke eyes on protruding pegs in corridor.	Leaders, students, EH staff	Warn group where hazards are located and limit number of people passing each other in the corridor.	2	1	2
Power failure or fire alarm resulting in evacuation and panic.	Leaders, students, EH staff	Inform group of evacuation procedure in event of fire alarm or power failure and point out all exits. Inform students of automatic fire door closing. Staff to carry torches and radios. Count number of people on tour. Arrange meeting point outside.	2	1	2
Claustrophobia and fainting.	Leaders, students, EH staff	Inform group of closed in conditions and ask if anyone suffers from this phobia. Make leaders aware of exits. Leaders and facilitators monitor throughout the session.	2	1	2
Falling over balcony.	Leaders, students, EH staff	Constant supervision and informing students not to touch anything beyond balcony.	3	1	3
Narrow corridors.	Leaders, students, EH staff	Limiting numbers per group to avoid blocking up corridors, constant supervision, and facilitator leading way to set	2	1	2

		pace.			
Slipping on grass bank.	Leaders, students, EH staff	Not allowing access to grass. Only allowing access with prior permission and in suitably dry conditions. Warning group not to approach bank. Constant supervision by group leaders.	2	1	2
Trips, falls or other issues caused by entering restricted areas.	Leaders, students, EH staff	Students told to stay with the tour and not enter areas which are closed off from the public. Group led by site staff at all times and accompanied by group leaders.	2	1	2
Breaking down of chairlift for disabled access with person on it.	Leaders, students, EH staff	Implementing emergency procedure by staff or calling fire brigade. Limiting number of disabled visitors in one group.	1	1	1

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 injures
- 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).