



## Risk Assessments

**On-site green spaces: Sensory garden, courtyard, orchard, M.U.G.A,  
picnic area & allotment**

Contained in the following pages are the risk assessments for Dukes Barn outdoor activity areas and gardens to be viewed in conjunction with Site and Facilities Risk Assessment and other activity specific risk assessments where applicable.

These risk assessments have been carried out by the staff of Dukes Barn taking into account any entries to our accident / near miss report folder.

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<b>Benefit Statement</b>		To provide a safe and enjoyable environment for alternative provision & activity groups		
<b>What are the hazards?</b>	<b>Who is affected</b>	<b>What we are already doing / control measures</b>	<b>Further action required</b>	<b>Action required</b> Responsibility / dates due and completed
<b>General hazards</b>				
Uneven-slippery ground/Stumble-slip/trip Hazards	All participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• These will all be pointed out prior to activities taking place by a member of staff from Dukes Barn.</li> <li>• Full briefing given, appropriate level of supervision and rate of progress adopted.</li> </ul>	No further action at this time	
Weather (heat)/Hyperthermia	All Participants and staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An assessment made of ambient temperature, clothing, work rate and hydration made.</li> <li>• Proactive hydration measures taken and appropriate work rates adopted.</li> <li>• Appropriate action taken to maintain adequate core temperature of individuals up to and including returning to classroom.</li> </ul>	No further action required at this time.	
Weather (cold)/Hypothermia	All Participants and staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An assessment made of ambient temperature, wind speed, precipitation levels and clothing.</li> <li>• Appropriate action taken to maintain adequate core temperature of individuals up to and including returning to classroom.</li> </ul>	No further action required at this time.	
Weather (snow and ice)	All Participants and staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An assessment made of prevailing and forecast weather conditions and session cancelled/terminated as appropriate. Including regard for travelling conditions.</li> </ul>	No further action required at this time.	
Weather (wind)/falling trees/risk of damage to outdoor classroom	All Participants and staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An assessment made of prevailing and forecast weather conditions and session cancelled/terminated as appropriate.</li> </ul>	No further action required at this time.	
Use of Tools	All Participants and staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• See 'Hand-tool use in activities' risk assessment sheet.</li> </ul>	No further action at this time	
Lifting & Carrying	All Participants and staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advice on techniques and appropriate use will be given by Dukes Barn staff.</li> <li>• Common sense must be adhered to and be aware of other people in the vicinity when lifting and carrying.</li> </ul>	No further action at this time.	

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Disease or plant risks				
Legionellosis (Legionella) caused Staff and visitors	All Participants and staff - elderly gardeners and those with a suppressed immune system are most vulnerable.	<p>Caused by Legionella bacteria, this is an infectious disease that can be caught by anyone. There are two types to which gardeners may be exposed: Legionella longbeachae, occurring in soil and compost, which can lead to a respiratory disease; and the more common L. pneumonophila, which leads to a type of pneumonia known as legionnaires disease. The latter form occurs naturally at low levels in watercourses but can multiply in standing water to potentially harmful levels when the water temperature is between 20°C to 45°C. temperature is between 20°C to 45°C.</p> <p>Relevant to site:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Drinking water supply is via a mains water supply - 3 month inspection by external contractor to confirm correct water temperature for the prevention to legionnaires disease.</li> <li>• Water butts are used in the allotment garden for rain water collection and staff and participants are to be briefed on appropriate use of these:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ No drinking.</li> <li>○ No creation of airborne sprays above 20°C.</li> <li>○ Ensure all open wounds are covered.</li> <li>○ Wash hands before eating or drinking.</li> <li>○ Regular use of these water sources ensures that water is replaced by fresh rain water frequently.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• There are compost areas in the orchard and allotment areas and staff and participants are to be briefed on appropriate use of these:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Ensure all open wounds are covered and gloves are worn when turning compost.</li> <li>○ Wash hands before eating or drinking.</li> <li>○ Do not behave in a manner that will create a dust cloud.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	No further action at this time	

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Bioaerosols	All Participants and staff	<p>Airborne micro-organisms including spores, bacteria and fungi (e.g. <i>Aspergillus fumigatus</i>) that are naturally present in decomposing material. Gardeners are most likely to breathe these in when turning compost, especially in warm weather. People with an existing chest conditions such as asthma or bronchitis or those prone to allergies are most at risk.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Do not open bags of compost or potting media with your head right over it.</li> <li>• Avoid potting-up in confined spaces.</li> <li>• Moisten dry potting media before use.</li> <li>• Dampen down dry compost heaps before turning or use.</li> </ul>	No further action at this time	
Tetanus	All Participants and staff	<p>Tetanus bacterium can enter through cuts or wounds. Since gardeners regularly handle thorny plants, soil or manure, they are at a higher risk of being infected than non-gardeners.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wear gloves whenever handling soil, compost.</li> <li>• Cover all open wounds.</li> <li>• Ensure tetanus jabs are up to date (all children should have had 4 doses by the age of 4 through the NHS childhood vaccination programme with a final dose at 14). Otherwise, see your local GP for a tetanus vaccination if you have cut yourself on a plant or get soil or manure in an open wound.</li> </ul>	No further action at this time	
Sepsis	All Participants and staff	<p>Although rare, sepsis can be triggered by an infection in any part of the body, following an injury in the garden such as a cut.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All cuts should be cleaned out and covered with an appropriate dressing as soon as possible.</li> <li>• Wear protective gloves when handling plants with thorns.</li> </ul>	No further action at this time	
Weil's disease (Leptospirosis)	All Participants and staff	<p>This is a disease humans can catch from rats through water or wet vegetation contaminated with rat urine. Rats also transmit salmonella. All compost created from raw food scraps is kept off the ground in plastic or metal containers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wear gloves whenever handling soil, compost.</li> <li>• Always wash hands before eating or drinking.</li> <li>• Staff and participants are advised to wash all vegetables that are in contact with soil before eating.</li> </ul>	No further action at this time	

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Plant hazards	All Participants and staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Any poisonous or plants that can cause irritant will be pointed out by staff.</li> <li>All plants can have saps, hairs or pollens that may cause irritation in some people.</li> <li>The use of gloves when handling any fully grown plant is recommended. Thin latex or latex-free gloves can be provided/worn for handling seedlings if required.</li> </ul>	No further action at this time	
Natural fertilisers – Comfrey feed	All Participants and staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>These are to be stored on shelving out of reach of small children.</li> <li>They should be labelled with easy to read labels.</li> <li>Gloves should be worn when handling.</li> <li>Briefing and appropriate supervision will be given to all children.</li> </ul>	No further action at this time	
TODDLERS SITE SPECIFIC ASSESSMENTS		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b><u>CHILDREN TO BE SUPERVISED BY THEIR ACCOMPANYING ADULT AT ALL TIMES</u></b></li> <li>No picking of plants rule – unless advised to by member of Dukes Barn staff. Includes leaves, berries, fungi, fruit...</li> <li>No eating – unless advised by member of Dukes Barn staff. Hands must be washed</li> <li>No sucking fingers – children’s guardians to supervise and maintain good hand hygiene if child is a thumb or finger sucker</li> <li>Gates to allotment will be closed. Guardians to be aware where their children are at all times</li> <li>Undulating ground – children and adults reminded to always walk. Suggested when booking that prams and pushchairs not ideal on the ground. Smaller children may be better in a sling or carrying pouch</li> <li>Sanitiser available for hands washing.</li> <li>Toilet facilities – located in Dukes Barn and the Climbing Wall. Adults to be shown where they are and how to access safely across the carpark.</li> <li>The session lead adult will carry a whistle at all times. 3 sharp blows in case of emergency. All children and adults to be briefed about this at beginning of session. Everyone stop and assemble by the entry gate.</li> <li>Insect bites and stings –Long sleeves suggested. There will be a 1<sup>st</sup> aid kit available but guardians requested to bring their own</li> </ul>	No further action at this time	

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<b>Activity specific hazards</b>				
All Activities	All Participants and staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All activities are dynamically risk assessed. Activities may be changed from the timetable or stopped, if on the day or at any point, the activity is not deemed appropriate to the ability or behaviour of the group or weather conditions.</li> <li>A briefing on all activities and the safety precautions that should be taken will be given by an experienced member of Dukes Barn Staff. It is the accompanying school staffs responsibility to know the abilities of their group and advise the instructor accordingly.</li> </ul>	No further action at this time	
Mud kitchen		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Supervised by adult.</li> <li>Not to be climbed on.</li> <li>Step up to it – users to be aware of this.</li> </ul>	No further action at this time	
Wood chip play area		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Checked before every session incase any village cats/dogs have made it into the area – any faeces removed using bags and gloves.</li> <li>Chip is sharp and can cause splinters.</li> <li>Children reminded not to run in it.</li> <li>Children reminded not to eat it. Hands should be washed at the end of play.</li> </ul>	No further action at this time	
Raised beds & Flower/ herb/fruit beds		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Any users will be offered gardening gloves to wear when planting. See above notes for soil risks</li> <li>Raspberries, gooseberries &amp; rhubarb - hazards of handling should be made known</li> </ul>	No further action at this time	
Willow tunnel		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Users reminded to walk near this</li> </ul>	No further action at this time	
Fairy garden		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Small parts play – guardian to supervise</li> <li>Be careful of finger entrapment in hinges</li> </ul>	No further action at this time	

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Sand pit		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Will be checked before use by Dukes Barn staff for signs of local cats or other wildlife visiting it.</li> <li>• Eye bath in the first aid kit if users have not provided their own.</li> </ul>	No further action at this time	
Water Wall		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fresh water to be available for each session.</li> <li>• Water provided will not be in deep buckets, hose pipe available for use to fill small watering cans and other items used for pouring.</li> </ul>	No further action at this time	
Toys		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All will be inspected prior to session for an damage and discarded where necessary.</li> <li>• Requested not to put in mouth</li> </ul>	No further action at this time	
Mark making & craft zone		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children will be supervised by their guardian.</li> <li>• Asked not to put in mouth</li> </ul>	No further action at this time	
Boat pool		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children to be supervised by their adult at all times.</li> <li>• Will only be half filled with water</li> </ul>	No further action at this time	

**Area specific hazards – in addition to general hazards, plant & activity hazards applicable to all areas**

Car Park Areas & the Dukes Barn premises	All Participants and staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Everyone is given a health and safety introduction on arrival as to the rules of the Dukes Barn Activity Centre and associated daily hazards in order to keep everyone safe.</li> <li>• All people entering the property of Dukes Barn are made aware via signs to restrict speed etc...</li> <li>• All children should be supervised when entering Dukes Barn or crossing carpark areas.</li> </ul>	No further action at this time	
Out of Bounds Areas	All Participants and staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Everyone will be briefed by Dukes Barn members of staff as to where they can access.</li> <li>• A guided walk around the areas will be undertaken so everyone is aware of where they can or can't go.</li> </ul>	No further action at this time	

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M.U.G.A (multi-use games area)	All Participants and staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The surface can be slippery when wet, participants advised to wear appropriate footwear.</li> <li>• Netting, goals, hoops and fencing are not to be climbed as this will create an entrapment and fall risk.</li> <li>• No equipment is to be moved unless specifically instructed to by a trained member of staff.</li> </ul>	No further action at this time	
Outdoor classroom/poly tunnel	All Participants and staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children should be appropriately supervised when in these structures.</li> <li>• All items and equipment should be put away properly so as not to pose a fall or trip hazard.</li> <li>• When removing items from shelving consider height, risks and appropriateness of task.</li> <li>• Rough wooden surfaces and pillars within the outdoor classroom – care must be taken when using the space.</li> <li>• Areas will have adequate ventilation – in hot weather the use of the poly-tunnel will be carefully considered.</li> <li>•</li> </ul>	No further action at this time	
Sensory garden	All Participants and staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participants will be advised on what fruit/vegetables/plants/herbs can and can't be consumed in harvesting activities.</li> <li>• This area has uneven and narrow pathways that may not be suitable for all abilities.</li> </ul>	No further action at this time	
Orchard	All Participants and staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unless part of a planned activity the compost areas are out of bounds.</li> <li>• The tepee should be left open at all times to allow for ventilation and safeguarding.</li> <li>• There are areas of scrub and ancient stone walls around the boundary. Participants will be briefed not to climb or sit on these.</li> <li>• Gates – care should be taken when opening and closing so as to avoid entrapment of fingers. These should not be climbed.</li> <li>• Participants will be advised on what fruit can and can't be consumed in harvesting activities.</li> </ul>	No further action at this time	



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<p>Allotment garden</p>	<p>All Participants and staff</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Water-butts – these will be covered at all times and participants briefed to risk of use as in general risks above.</li> <li>• Unless part of a planned activity the compost areas are out of bounds.</li> <li>• Compost, leaf mould, sawdust bins, etc – these will remain covered unless in use and participants briefed to risk of use as in general risks above.</li> <li>• Log seating areas are not to be stood on or used in an inappropriate manner.</li> <li>• Pond/sheep dip – this is covered by steel mesh.</li> <li>• Picnic benches are not to be moved or used in an inappropriate way that may cause injury. These will be mown and strimmed around for easy access and visibility. Box bench seating will hold 2 adults.</li> <li>• There are areas of scrub, wild flower, wild habitat and stone walls around the boundary. Participants will be briefed not to climb or sit on these.</li> <li>• Gates – care should be taken when opening and closing so as to avoid entrapment of fingers. These should not be climbed.</li> <li>• Participants will be advised on what fruit/veg can and can't be consumed in harvesting activities.</li> <li>• Undulating ground – children and staff reminded to always walk</li> <li>• Hazardous plants – children and adults reminded what they look like and to avoid.</li> <li>• Tree safety – trees in the allotment are included in all Dukes Barn tree inspections organised by the management team. Visual site checks by the site lead before any group visit. Making note of any dead or hung up branches, and any visual signs of deterioration of the trees. These should be reported to the management team and removed if possible. If not possible the area around the tree avoided until specialists have been.</li> <li>• Insect bites and stings –Long sleeves suggested.</li> </ul>	<p>No further action at this time</p>	
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<p>Picnic area containing tunnel, willow structure, fire pit and wood store</p>	<p>All Participants and staff</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Picnic benches are not to be moved or used in an inappropriate way that may cause injury.</li> <li>● The fire pit contains low level bench seating. The use of the fire pit is risk assessed separately.</li> <li>● The wood store area is stacked appropriately. Lifting and carrying of wood will be briefed as part of the activity briefing.</li> <li>● The walkway to the seating area above the tunnel can be slippery when wet and has chicken wire over the surface in places to reduce this risk.</li> <li>● Care should be taken on the steep grass banks surrounding this area especially at the tunnel entrances.</li> <li>● The tunnel is unlit and is out of bounds unless part of a supervised activity. The height of the tunnel is restricted with bends and some sharp gradient changes.</li> <li>● Willow structure should not be climbed under any circumstances. By its nature there could be sharp twigs protruding at certain times of the year. Careful management of the structure will minimise but not eliminate the risk.</li> <li>● There areas of scrub and ancient stone walls around the boundary. Participants will be briefed not to climb or sit on these.</li> </ul>	<p>No further action at this time</p>	
<p>Hazel grove area</p>	<p>All Participants and staff</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● This area has some low branches and care should be taken when moving through it.</li> <li>● Gates – care should be taken when opening and closing so as to avoid entrapment of fingers. These should not be climbed.</li> <li>● There are areas of scrub and ancient stone walls around the boundary. Participants will be briefed not to climb or sit on these.</li> </ul>	<p>No further action at this time</p>	
<p>Court-yard</p>	<p>All Participants and staff</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The stone surface in this area can be slippery when wet.</li> <li>● Picnic benches are not to be moved or used in an inappropriate way that may cause injury.</li> <li>● This area has some low branches and care should be taken when moving through it.</li> <li>● Participants will be advised on what fruit/vegetables/plants/herbs can and can't be consumed in harvesting activities.</li> <li>● Gates – care should be taken when opening and closing so as to avoid entrapment of fingers. These should not be climbed.</li> </ul>	<p>No further action at this time</p>	