

Task Assessed: Educational group visits to Benmore Botanic Garden – guidance for teachers/practitioners.

Persons at risk: leaders, group members, RBGE staff and visitors

RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE GROUP’S WELFARE on a visit to the Garden is with the activity organiser through their leaders.

We expect groups to carry out their own risk assessments – please use the information below to assist you with this

NOTE: If **first aid assistance** is required during your visit, please phone the number below. If an ambulance is needed dial 999 first, then let Garden staff know.

Emergency number: Benmore [01369 706261](tel:01369706261)

Reviewer	Date	Changes
Cath Ashby	27/03/23	Update

Reviewer	Date	Changes

RISK RATING is a measure of (A) Potential severity & (B) Likelihood

RE-ASSESS RISK RATING as and when task changes or proposed actions have been applied

RISK RATING - GUIDANCE ONLY			LIKELIHOOD				
			PROBABLE (3)	POSSIBLE (2)	IMPROBABLE (1)	EXTREMELY REMOTE (0)	
SEVERITY	FATAL/DISABILITY	(3)	HIGH	HIGH	MEDIUM	LOW	*PROBABLE - happens repeatedly / expected
	MAJOR INJURY	(2)	HIGH	MEDIUM	LOW	LOW	*POSSIBLE - potential exists / uncommon
	MINOR INJURY	(1)	MEDIUM	LOW	LOW	LOW	*IMPROBABLE - rarely occurs / unlikely
	NEGILIGBLE	(0)	LOW	LOW	LOW	LOW	*EXTREMELY REMOTE – approaches zero chance

Hazard	(A)	(B)	(A x B)	Controls & Monitoring Procedures	(A1)	(B2)	(A1 x B2)	Proposed action to further reduce risk
	potential Severity	Likelihood	Base Risk rating		Potential Severity after controls	Likelihood after controls	New Risk rating	
General access hazards								
Risk of injury – slips, trips, areas of active work	2	2	4	Garden inspected before opening to the public and any findings reported or repaired or roped off. Warn group to take care in areas when grass or paths are wet & choose suitable locations for active games. Always keep an eye on your groups. Never cross any form of barrier.	1	1	1	
Events in the garden Risk of injury, eg tripping, on cables and lighting	2	2	4	There may be extra vehicles and cabling and lighting laid in areas of the garden for events. Take care and avoid these areas in activities. Never cross any form of barrier.	1	1	1	
Ponds/water features Risk of drowning	3	2	6	Warn group to be careful and not to go beyond existing barriers. Supervise carefully at the bridge.	1	1	1	Emergency flotation devices found at all ponds
Animal stings/bites								
Risk of sting leading to anaphylactic shock	3	1	3	Group leaders are responsible for managing any known allergies in young people, for bringing appropriate medication and ability to administer it.	2	1	2	

Risk of sting or animal bite leading to minor injury or infection	1	2	2	Warn group not to try to touch wild animals/birds. Guide children to be calm around stinging insects.	1	1	1	
Risk of tick bite leading to infection (Lyme disease)	3	2	6	Group leaders are aware what ticks look like and how to remove safely using tick twister/card. At peak tick times avoid using wilder areas if possible. Before activity in longer grass/ferns/wilder areas warn group to tuck trousers into socks. Post activity - Visually look at clothing for ticks and brush off with hands. Tell children to ask parents to check for ticks afterwards. If ticks are present shake clothing outdoors and put into washing machine or into a bag. Be vigilant on skin for the next 24 hours as ticks can make their way around the body slowly and make a bite later. If you are bitten follow advice on NHS website.	3	1	3	Tick bite removal kits supplied in RBGE First Aid kits.
Injuries from plants								
Risk of injury by plant spines, twigs or similar	1	2	2	Be aware that some plants have spines and take care when touching. Be careful with eyes near twigs and spines at eye level.	1	1	1	
Risk of poisoning/stomach after eating plant or fungi material	3	2	6	Warn children not to eat any plants. Contact emergency number for first aid advice if you think a member of your group has ingested plant material in the garden.	3	1	3	

Weather								
Sun Risk of heat stroke	2	1	2	Find shade as much as possible on very hot days. Come prepared with suitable outdoor clothing, e.g., hats & bring bottles of water.	0	1	0	
Sun Risk of sunburn or heat rash	1	2	2	Children should carry sun lotion for personal use.	0	1	0	
Rain & Cold Risk of hypothermia	1	1	1	Come prepared with suitable footwear and outdoor gear.	0	1	0	
Wind Risk from falling tree debris or glass	3	1	3	The gardens may shut during inclement weather or high winds, sometimes closing at short notice. Your visit may be cancelled for safety reasons. If high winds are forecast phone for advice in advance of your visit: Benmore 01369 706261 Visitors on site will be alerted by staff of safe route and asked to leave the garden. Respect signs and barriers and follow suggested alternative routes in garden.	0	0	0	
Risk of being injured by lightning strikes	3	2	6	If electrical storms are forecast Garden staff will make decision on whether to shut the garden. Your visit may be cancelled in advance or cut short if necessary.	3	0	0	If caught in a storm follow advice by Met Office . Seek shelter. Avoid water and find a low-lying position away from trees, poles and metal objects.

Allergies								
Food Risk of anaphylactic shock leading to death	3	1	3	Group leaders are responsible for any known food allergies in young people, for bringing appropriate medication and ability to administer it.	3	0	0	
Plants Risk of allergic reaction (dermatitis or similar)	1	2	2	Plant diversity prevents any absolute guarantee of a person not encountering an unknown skin allergen. If a known skin allergy exists take care. Wash hands after touching anything in nature. Get advice from healthcare specialist if a rash appears after being in the garden.	1	2	2	
Machinery								
Risk of injury from tractors & trailers and vehicles on the paths	3	2	6	Warn group that we operate moving vehicles on main paths in the garden. Some are quiet electric vehicles, and you may not hear them approach. Take care when crossing and be vigilant when walking. Give clear boundaries when playing games on lawns and directions not to run onto paths. Move on to grass to allow vehicles to pass. Warn children not to run out from Discovery centre as garden vehicles may be using the internal road. Take care when entering the Garden from car park and cross public road safely.	3	1	3	Drivers stick to speed limit & are vigilant around groups.

Risk - Injury from falling down cattle grid	3	2	6	Warn children to use the path and not to walk over the cattle grid.	3	0	0	
Risk of injury from lawnmowers	3	1	3	Lawnmowers operate on lawn areas. Be vigilant and move away to another area if necessary. Do not chase mowers or other machinery.	3	0	0	Operators are vigilant around groups.
Other risks to children								
Risk of accidental Injury by another child	1	1	1	Group leaders are responsible for the behaviour of the class.	1	1	1	
Risk of children becoming lost (safeguarding issue)	2	2	4	Group leaders are responsible for any children under their care. In the event of a child becoming separated from the group contact RBGE staff to assist in finding the child. Contact number - Benmore 01369 706261	2	1	2	
Risk from visitors	3	1	3	If you suspect any suspicious activity by a visitor phone number above to report or call 999 direct for police in emergencies. Gather your group and make your way to a more public area with other people present.	3	0	0	Staff are vigilant
Teaching spaces & activities								
Risk of injury from unsafe shelters	1	2	2	Staff carry out safety checks on all shelters. If guy ropes are present, they will have visual hazard warning, eg ribbon/tape.	1	1	1	
Risk of injury in indoor spaces	1	2	2	Ask group to take care and walk inside buildings. Staff will ensure groups are alerted to any risk inside teaching spaces if they are taking part in a programme with the Learning Team.	1	1	1	
Rick of injury from cattle grid	1	2	2	Warn children not to walk over cattle grid. Always use footpath.	1	1	1	

Risk of injury during activities	1	2	2	Child-friendly kit and materials are used by Learning Team. Extra instructions will be given if specific risk is possible in an activity. Activities are age and group appropriate.	1	1	1	Dynamic risk assessments are made in each outdoor area at time of activity by Learning Team.
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Signed: Cath Ashby (School Team Manager)

Date: 19/06/23