

Wild Minds Risk Assessments

Covering all Wild Minds 'Nature Education & Connection Activities', including all school and educational groups, families, children and adults, after school clubs.

(Produced January 2020, reviewed January 2025)

Wild Minds Risk Assessment Scoring System

Risk [R] = Hazard Severity [H] × Likelihood of occurrence (Probability) [L]

Hazard Severity [H] - Should be assessed on scale of 1 - 5:

1. Low (minor injury to one individual)
2. Slight (injury or disease capable of keeping one person off work 3 or more days)
3. Moderate (injury or disease capable of keeping more than one person off work for 3 or more days)
4. High (death to an individual)
5. Very High (multiple deaths)*

Likelihood of occurrence (probability) [L], on scale of 1 - 5:

1. Not likely (an injury may occur less than once in a working year, doing this activity every day)
2. Possible (an injury may occur once in a working year, doing this activity every day)
3. Occasional (an injury is likely to occur 2 or 3 times in a working year, doing this activity every day)
4. Common (an injury is likely to occur more than 3 times in a working year, doing this activity every day)
5. Likely (an injury is probably going to occur)

Using the equation above a **risk factor [R] is determined** ranging from 1 (no severity and unlikely to happen) to 25 (just waiting to happen, with disastrous and widespread results).

Risk Factors [R]

1-3 Low, improve when possible

4-9 Medium risk factor, improve as soon as possible

10+ Deal with the risk before you start the task, preferably before anyone else arrives on site. A risk factor of 10+ is unacceptable. If it cannot be reduced, the task will not be carried out. To make the equation work effectively, 'likelihood' and 'severity' are always judged independently.

Activity Assessed: General site access and all activities Assessed by: - Jodi & Rebecca Winter (Wild Minds Nature Connection CIC) Site Location: All locations						Date: - 22/01/2025 (and before each session)	
Type of Hazard	Likelihood of Occurrence (L)	Hazard Severity (H)	Risk Factor (R)	Action to be taken to reduce risk	New likelihood of occurrence	New hazard severity	New risk factor
Stump/log/hole/mud slip/trip hazard	3	2	6	Awareness raised regarding trip/slip hazards on site. At time of booking, ensure children and adults are told to wear suitable outdoor clothing and footwear during the session. Pre-activity briefing on importance of not jumping/climbing/walking on standing logs/tree branches.	1	2	2
Disease from animal excrement	2	3	6	Hand washing before eating Inspection of area to be used prior to activity taking place and removal of any excrement from area.	1	3	3
Weil's disease	2	3	6	Give pre-activity briefing about the importance of not putting muddy fingers in eyes, ears, mouth or nose. To encourage hand washing after each activity and before eating. To provide plasters for those with open cuts.	1	3	3
Allergic reaction to plants / insects	3	3	9	Onsite explanation/briefing at appropriate times of year to cover any possible irritants.	1	3	3
Plant and insect stings	3	1	3	Pre-activity briefing. Site check to ensure area to be used is free of possible sting causes.	2	1	2
Injury from branch fall	2	3	6	Site check to be carried out in area where activities will take place to look for any possible loose or dangerous branches. In extreme wind conditions, activities to be kept to open air only or to be postponed.	2	1	2

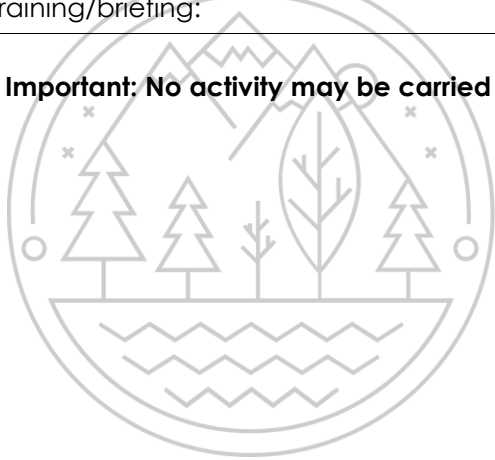
Injury to or by dog	3	3	9	All dogs attending sessions should be always kept on leads. Dog owners to be responsible for their own dog's wellbeing and safety. Attendees will be warned of the presence of other dogs not associated with our session and advised not to interact with them. Children will be advised to fold arms and look away from dog if one approaches.	1	3	3
Injury to face or body from protruding branch, twig	3	1	3	Site check to be carried out in area where activities will take place to look for any possible dangers. Pre-activity safety briefing to explore possible dangers such as twigs and branches at eye level.	2	1	2
Injury from discarded waste/rubbish	2	2	4	Ensure a pre-activity site check takes place in the area the activity is to be carried out. Removal of any discarded waste to be carried out with gloves, bagged, and binned.	1	1	1
Slipping/stumbling on wet approach paths	2	2	4	Brief participants about underfoot conditions prior to setting out. Advise on booking that all attendees wear suitable, sturdy outdoor clothing and footwear. Severely slippery areas to be avoided.	1	2	2
Cuts to skin/thorns/splinters/nettles or grazes.	2	2	4	Pre-activity briefing about activity dangers. Have First Aid Kit to hand at all times. Ensure participants wear gloves if moving logs. Check for possible hazards on pre-activity site check. First Aid kit available at all times.	1	2	2
Injury by throwing sticks/stones/logs.	2	2	4	No throwing sticks/stones/logs to be advised at the start of each session. All materials to be handled with care and placed.	1	2	2
Lost child/adult	2	1	2	Clearly define area of activity. Regular checks on group numbers. Children to be accompanied by designated adult at all times. School group leaders to be responsible for children at all times. Carers to be responsible for vulnerable adults.	1	1	1

Drowning in pond	3	2	6	If area by pond is used, both children and adults are kept at a safe distance from the pod, with all of those attending made aware of the danger at the start of the activity. Where possible, the pond on site will not be used.	2	1	2
Ingestion of plant and natural materials such as mud (including poisonous plants and mushrooms)	2	1	2	Ensure all attendees receive a pre-activity briefing regarding any poisonous plants/mushrooms on site and the importance of handwashing after the activity to avoid ingesting these. In addition, parents/carers/school staff to ensure children are supervised at all times and do not ingest any natural materials.	1	1	1
Sunburn/sunstroke	3	2	6	Advise all attendees on booking, to provide suitable clothing and protection for activities. Parent/carers/school staff to be responsible for children in terms of applying sun cream and fluids before, during and after activities. Ensure plenty of time spend in the shade and exposure to full sun kept to a minimum.	2	2	4
Hypothermia	3	2	6	Advise all attendees on booking, to provide suitable clothing and protection for activities. Parent/carers/school staff to be responsible for children in terms of ensuring they are wearing suitable outdoor clothing and footwear, as well as have enough layers to keep them warm. Ensure activities in the winter allow opportunities to warm up and that children and vulnerable adults are monitored closely throughout each session for signs of hypothermia.	1	2	4
Collision with moving /stationary vehicles crossing car park/roads.	2	2	4	Ensure activities take place away from car park and main road. All children to be supervised by parent/carer or school staff when accessing site via carpark. Adults advised to ensure vigilance when crossing roads or car parks.	2	1	2

Lymes disease (caused by tick bite)	1	2	2	Give pre-activity awareness briefing. Wear suitable clothing to cover arms & legs. Check regularly for ticks.	1	1	1
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Emergency meeting point:	Main car park
Mobile signal coverage:	Good
Preventative pre-session training/briefing:	Dangers involved in using equipment and the site, should be brought to the attention of all prior to activity commencement.

Important: No activity may be carried out where there is a 'new' risk factor of 10 or above. Activities will not be carried out when winds exceed 18mph



Wild Minds
 Nature Connection CIC
 Community through nature