**Tallington Farm. Risk Assessment Educational Visits.**

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| **Name of farmer:** | Louise Isaacs.  Tallington Farm, Mill Lane, Tallington, Stamford, Lincs. PE94RR | **Risk assessment created by:** | Louise Isaacs | **Risk assessment review date:**  **Who by?** | April 2025  Louise Isaacs |
| **Area being assessed:** | Tallington Farm  Xmas Tree Field | **Date assessment created:** | 01 April 2023 | Version No | 5 |

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| **OS Grid Reference:**  Tallington Farm Cabin  Picnic.strictly.skills  TF 09582 08127  Xmas Tree Field  Flashback.invents.shuttled  TF 09144 07527 | **Farmer: Louise Isaacs**  **Mobile:** 07715 490365  **Owner: Andrew Thurlby**  **07801090458**  **William Thurlby**  **07815882921**  Emergency number if another network has coverage in the area, but not your own network: 999 or 112 | **Nearest Hospital**:  Peterborough City Hospital. Open 24hrs.  Tel: 01733 678000  Nearest Defibrillator  Tallington Village Hall  Polo.potatoe.earphones | **Supervision of Children.**  **School staff remain responsible for children throughout the visit. Children to be supervised by accompanying adults at all times on a minimum ratio of 1 adult: 10 children.** |

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| **Hazard** | **Who might be harmed and how?**  Risks apply to all farm visitors: children, adult supervisors and staff | **Control Measure** | **What further measures are required?** | **Target completion date / comments / progress.** |
| **Requirements of school visiting the farm.** |  | **Teachers are strongly advised to attend a pre-visit. Schools should undertake their own risk assessment of the farm prior to the school visit.**  **Schools are advised that the visit requires children and staff to walk over uneven ground and through woodland.**  **Children remain the responsibility of school staff at all times. School staff must supervise children at all times.** | **Schools must have at least one appointed first aider on the day.** |  |
| **Alighting from the coach.**  **Passing vehicles, trip hazards.** | **Straying into road, injury from other vehicles.**  **Falling tripping.** | **Depending upon the location of the visit; coaches will park at the entrance to the field, traffic will be stopped or children will alight directly into the field; OR children will alight into the farm yard.**  **Passing traffic will be controlled by farm staff. Any trip hazards will be removed or pointed out by staff. Teachers to supervise children alighting from coach.**  **Warning signs placed at field entrance to advise of school visit. Gate to road shut, once all children are in the field.** |  |  |
| **Walking on the farm: tree stumps, holes created by animals,**  **anthills, uneven ground, wet ground.**  **Uneven ground in house paddocks.** | **Injury from falling, slipping, tripping** | **Across the farm the ground is uneven with various natural trip hazards. Additionally, in the xmas tree field visitors will be made aware of tree stumps, particularly where they have been covered by vegetation.**  **Known hazards and rabbit holes on the planned route will be marked or pointed out.**  **Schools are advised at pre-visit that sturdy footwear is recommended.** | **School staff are to ensure that children arrive at the farm dressed appropriately for the weather; including sturdy footwear.** |  |
| **Allergies – particularly nut allergies.** | **Severe allergic reaction / Anaphylactic reaction** | **The farm feeds the birds with a seed mix containing nuts, therefore traces of nut may be found throughout the farm. Visits can include a bird feeding activity which involves a bird seed mix which contains nuts or may have been in contact with nuts.**  **School staff are responsible for first aid and must administer medication as appropriate.**  **OS Reference number and details of nearest hospital are given at the top of this document in case of severe allergic reaction.** | **The school must inform Tallington Farm of any known allergies before the school visit takes place; particularly nut allergies. All Epi-pens / medical equipment must be carried.** |  |
| **Food allergies** | **Allergic reactions** | **Children may be offered chocolate treats or biscuits during the visit.** | **Staff to be aware and advise visit staff of allergies prior to the visit.** |  |
| **Insects and allergic reactions; including hay fever.**  **Injuries arising from mini beast hunting.** | **Bites, stings, allergic reactions.** | **Insects are present in all environments, and farms are no exception.**  **Pollen levels in the countryside can be high during the summer; children should take hay fever medication / anti histamines before they arrive at the farm AND carry inhalers on the farm walk.**  **OS Reference numbers and nearest hospital details are given at the top of this document in case of severe allergic reaction.**  **Children are not to attempt to catch bees / wasps when bug hunting.**  **The route around the farm will be altered according to seasonal conditions / known wildlife hazards such as wasp nests.** | **School staff to be aware of any allergies amongst the children in their care; including children who are allergic to insects and other irritants. School staff are responsible for first aid and must administer medication as appropriate.** |  |
| **Tick borne Lyme Disease** | **Lyme disease** | **Due to the presence of wild deer on the farm, it must be assumed that there are ticks present.**  **Children and Visitors should wear long sleeves, long trousers and socks whilst on the farm.**  **School staff should carry their own first aid kit and are responsible for administering all medical needs of children.** | **Lyme Disease information to be forwarded to the school; which gives details of the symptoms of Lyme disease and appropriate action to take.** |  |
| **Game keeping / vermin control measures.** | **Injury from equipment used in game keeping / countryside management.** | **Vermin control measures on the route will be removed or disabled.**  **Children should stay with the group and not stray.** |  |  |
| **Being near animals** | **Kicking, biting, crushing, trampling** | **Tallington Farm has donkeys. If the donkeys form part of the school visit, they must only be approached with permission of Tallington Farm staff. Animals must only be fed with treats supplied by Tallington Farm staff. Children must be closely supervised by staff at lunchtime and other breaks to make sure they do not approach the animals.** |  |  |
| **Farm Dogs** | **Children scared of dog, barking (loud noise), jumping up.** | **Discussion at pre-visit about dogs’ participation. Children introduced to dog and briefed during Health and Safety and shown how to behave around dogs** | **If dogs become a problem they will be removed from site.** |  |
| **Contact with animals, including chickens and farm dogs and cats**  **Zoonoses (infection from farm animals to humans).**  **Illness, disease as a result of ingesting bacteria.** | **Infection and disease risk from pathogens including e-coli.** | **Children must wash their hands after contact with animals and before eating. Anti-bac gel can be used as a temporary measure.**  **Aprons are offered to children when in contact with chickens. Optional.**  **School is advised to sanitise hands after handling eggs and chickens.**  **Visitors advised in H&S briefing to keep hands away from face and not put anything in their mouths including fingers.**  **Any existing open cuts / wounds must be covered by a plaster.**  **If animals are known to suffer from any diseases that can infect visiting adults or children (zoonoses), for example Orf, Ringworm and enzootic abortion; or if lambs have been vaccinated against Orf within the last eight weeks; then the children will not be allowed to come into contact with the fence.** |  |  |
| **Bird Flu** | **Spreading bird flu** | **Birds will be checked to insure they are healthy before the visit. If bird flu present the visit will be cancelled and DEFRA guidelines will be followed** |  |  |
| **Touching growing plants, and walking in fields of growing crops** | **Ill health /allergic reaction as a result of coming into contact with applied chemicals.**  **Skin irritation has a result of contact with grasses / crops.** | **Visitors will not come into contact with any crops that have been sprayed within the last two days. No spraying will take place within the vicinity of the visit.**  **Walking through crops and grasses can cause localised allergic skin reactions. It is recommended that children wear trousers and long-sleeved tops.** |  |  |
| **Examining wheat plants / seed pods and the soil.** | **Hands could become contaminated by pathogens in the soil which, if ingested, could result in illness.** | **Visitors advised in H&S briefing to keep hands away from face and not put anything in their mouths including fingers.**  **Ensure that hands are washed before eating. Anti-bac gel can be used as a temporary measure.**    **Any existing abrasions or cuts to be protected by dressing.**  **Hands to be washed thoroughly before eating.** | **Use anti-bac gel after handling soil, if deemed necessary by school staff.** | **School to carry anti-bacterial gel** |
| **Fungi, toadstools berries and poisonous plants, encountered whilst walking on the farm.** | **Touching or eating poisonous plants may result in illness and poisoning.**  **Stinging nettles / thistles plants that cause discomfort.** | **Visitors will be warned not to touch or eat plants & berries from the farm or woodland; during the H&S brief.**  **Fungi will be pointed out during the walk if seen.**  **Children will be shown what a nettle plant looks like and advised to avoid. Nettle stings can be comforted by a cooling dock leaf.** |  |  |
| **Woodland** | **Injury, tripping, falling branches.** | **Activities will not take place in woodland or under trees in high wind or where branches have died back and may fall. All adults to be aware of risk of falling branches. The condition of trees along the intended route will be assessed.** |  |  |
| **Lunch area / activity facility** | **Contamination.** | **Depending on the visit, lunch may be taken at the farm yard ‘Cabin’, on picnic benches under the open sided field barn or on the grass. Lunch areas will be cleaned and any hazards removed.**  **All lunch areas will be non-contact areas ie: they will not have had animals present in the last three weeks. Unless wildlife has been present which is unavoidable.**  **Children to be supervised over lunch period by school staff.** |  |  |
| **Ponds / Deep water / River / Water Troughs.** | **Drowning, slipping, falling. Water borne infections including Leptospirosis** | **There are ponds on Tallington Farm and deep water troughs. Activities will take place in the vicinity of water and some actually on the banks of the water. Visitors will be informed of the location of the water and that this presents a hazard.**  **Staff and children will be made aware of the location of the ponds and water troughs. Adults to ensure that children are kept away from fast flowing and/or deep water**  **Only drink water annotated “drinking water” Ie: No drinking of pond water.**  **Life saving equipment located close to ponds** | **School staff should ensure that cuts and abrasions are covered before contact with water.**  **Wash hands after contact with water.** |  |
| **Public Footpath** | **Public access Footpath No 4** | **Footpath at end of Education Access Area.** | **Group informed of boundaries H & S talk** |  |
| **Missing children.**  **Children could become disorientated among the xmas trees or tall crops.** | **Children.**  **If children become separated from adults, they may become distressed or injured.** | **School staff to check regularly that all children in their care are accounted for.**  **Children are to stay with the group and should only enter wooded areas under supervision.** |  |  |
| **Straying into prohibited areas.** | **Various hazards. Injury from sharp objects, choking.** | **Visitors to the farm will be guided on the route to be taken and will be warned of any areas not to be entered. Visitors should not deviate from this route.**  **All non-essential implements to be kept away from designated farmyard areas.**  **Whilst moving around the farm there must be an adult at the front and the ack of the group.**  **Children must stay with the group.** |  |  |
| **Injury from unsecured farm tools, equipment, hay bales.**  **Heavy objects falling on visitors or staff would result in serious injury.** | **Crushing, being trapped, serious injury.** | **Any heavy or falling object hazards will be secured or laid flat for the visit.**  **Farm gates will be secure. All ladders and climbing equipment will be removed or blocked off.**  **Areas not to be entered will be clearly marked or blocked off.**  **Children must stay with the group.** |  |  |
| **Farming operations on the day of the visit.**  **Injury from working farm machinery, farm deliveries & collections etc.** | **Contact with farm machinery or delivery vehicles would result in serious injury.** | **School visits to take place in designated areas only. All farm staff will be made aware of school visit and times. No deliveries will be arranged during school visit times.**  **If essential farm operations are taking place on the day of the visit, alterations will be made to the itinerary and a safe place to observe the operations will be designated by the farmer.** | **Signage at field entrance advising of school visit as necessary.** |  |
| **Extreme weather conditions.** | **Falling branches and debris, sun burn, cold, wet hypothermia.** | **Tallington Farm will postpone the visit if there are extreme weather conditions at the site; which prevents the visit from taking place eg: strong wind or thunderstorms.**  **The school will be advised of any changes to the itinerary caused by the weather – hot/cold/wet**  **There is very little shelter in the field from the sun, the rain or the wind.**  **Rubber boots are essential for xmas tree visits; rubber boots are advised at other times of the year especially if it has been wet.**  **Donated wellies can be borrowed from Tallington Farm but School are responsible that footwear is appropriate and fits.** | **The school is responsible for ensuring that children are dressed appropriately. This includes hats, gloves and several layers of clothing in the winter. Sunscreen, sunhats and protective clothing in the summer.** |  |
| **Supervised access to farm machinery** | **JCB/Tractor/Hedgecutter/wood splitter** | **Clear cabs/machinery of any unsecured or unnecessary items.**  **Shown how to climb on; up forwards, down backwards.**  **Shown how to handle machines.**  **JCB/Tractor engine off/keys out, handbrake on.** | **Supervised use only.** |  |
| **Toileting facilities.** | **A portaloo is provided at the field and at the cabin in the farmyard.** | **Toileting of children to be supervised at all times by school staff.** |  |  |
| **Hand hygiene.** | **Illness due to poor hand hygiene.** | **Hand washing facilities will be provided, with liquid soap, paper towels and running water.**  **Staff to ensure hands are washed before eating and again before leaving the farm.** |  |  |
| **Wheat grinding activity** | **Trapped fingers** | **Activity to be supervised by school staff and farm**  **Grinder to be attached securely to table** | **Sturdy tables for wheat grinders** |  |
| **Cutting and grading asparagus activity.** | **Injury from knives** | **Children will be provided with ‘butter knives’ and a protective glove to cut asparagus. The glove must be worn on the non-tool hand. Knife use must be supervised by an adult.**  **At the tables, during the grading activity, one sharp knife per table will be used to cut the bunches of asparagus. One adult per table will be responsible for each knife issued. Knives will be stored securely away from children.** |  |  |
| **Asparagus cooking and tasting** | **Burns from cooking stove.**  **Illness due to poor hygiene.**  **Allergies** | **The asparagus will be prepared on a clean wipeable tablecloth and thoroughly washed before cooking. It will be cooked at a safe distance from the children. There will be water nearby to extinguish any flame.**  **The asparagus will be served in a clean paper towel, once it has cooled enough to handle.**  **Ensure all children have washed hands with soap & water prior to eating.** | **School staff to inform the farm if there are any known allergies to asparagus.** |  |
| **Working with scissors** | **Cuts, injury** | **If scissors are needed for activities, safety or craft scissors will be supplied.** |  |  |
| **Barbed wire fencing** | **Injury caused by contact** | **A single strand of barbed wire fencing is present on some of the paddock fencing which will be pointed out to staff on the pre-visit and as part of the Health and Safety brief to the children. A visual reminder will be tied to the fencing prior to the visit. Barbed wire on stiles has been wrapped and will be pointed out on the pre-visit and during the visit as above.** | **Visual markers and wrapped where children climbing over stiles** |  |
| **Low hanging branches and stick safety** | **Injury caused by low branches and sticks** | **Mature walnut trees in house paddock have low hanging branches which children must not swing on or run around. Children shown how to choose an age appropriate stick size and how to safely transport larger sticks/small branches. Awareness advised on pre-visit and in Health and Safety brief.** | **Supervision by staff.** |  |
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