

Big Sheep Little Cow Farm Attraction

Risk Assessment Summary

Reviewed May, 2025



Site/Activity	Risks and Associated Hazards	Post Action Level	Controls in Place/Action Required by Staff and Visitors
Weather	Slipping, falling, heat exposure, sunburn, wind exposure.	Low	All children must have sufficient protection for all types of weather. For inclement weather children must be adequately dressed with a waterproof coat and wellingtons/sturdy footwear. In hot weather we advise sun hats and sun cream be worn at all times. Visitors, teachers & leaders should be aware of the possibility of wet grass and take adequate precautions against slipping and falling.
Group Supervision	Slipping, tripping, falling, lost children.	Low	The supervision of children remains the responsibility of the parents, teachers, or group leaders at all times during the visit. Our staff can only guide groups providing there are additional adults present at all times. We advise leaders to make a preliminary visit to the farm prior to the main group visit. See Health & Safety Executive guidelines for adult/child ratios.
Arrival and Departure in the Car Park	Slipping, tripping, falling, injury from other vehicles.	Low	The car park will be in use by other vehicles, therefore please ensure that the children are closely supervised when they leave the coach. Keep the group together and away from traffic. Make sure that the children are instructed not to run in the car park.
Walking, Running, and Climbing in General Areas	Slipping, tripping & falling.	Low	We recommend that all visitors wear sensible and appropriate footwear to match the conditions of the day of the visit. Visitors must take care at steps, stairs, road, and path edges to avoid tripping and falling. Children must be adequately supervised and instructed not to run, climb walls, gates and other objects situated on or around the farm.
Mill Race (water)	Falling. Slipping. Drowning.	Low	The welfare of the children remains the responsibility of the parent, teacher, or group leaders at all times during the visit. Children must be adequately supervised and instructed not to climb walls or railings along the banking beside the stream. They must not enter the stream at any point.

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Start of Tour	Lack of understanding of the risks involved on a farm.	Low	<p>Make sure that all schools and groups are sent a Health and Safety Advice Sheet prior to the visit.</p> <p>In an engaging manner children will be asked not to put their fingers in their mouths after handling animals and before they have washed their hands.</p> <p>Children will be asked comply with our Code of Practice -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Listening carefully to the guide at all times • No unnecessary noise • No running around • If they have any cuts or grazes we will cover them • Provision of wipes and antibacterial lotion in small animal barn, should small animals defecate on hands of visitors • If they are cut or grazed during the tour we will immediately wash and cover the area • Advise adults about the possible contamination of mobile phones and cameras after touching animals • Ask if people have any allergies • Warning to pregnant ladies to refrain from touching newborn lambs because of the risk of bacterial infection at lambing time only - risk of abortion
Handling Small Animals	<p>Bacterial contamination on hands or clothing of anyone handling the small animals. This would be made worse if the animals were not in a good state of health.</p> <p>Being bitten by an animal, especially if it felt insecure or was handled without care.</p> <p>Handling animals, contaminating hands, and then using a mobile phone or camera.</p>	Low	<p>Warning to adults about the management of children under the age of five years. Their immune system is not as well developed as adults and this makes them more susceptible to bacterial infection. Care must be taken to prevent them putting fingers in mouths before handwashing has taken place.</p> <p>Children will be shown how to handle animals correctly.</p> <p>Provision of wipes and antibacterial lotion in small animal barn, should small animals defecate on hands of visitors.</p> <p>Regular staff handling of animals to ensure that they are comfortable.</p> <p>Guided handwashing with soap and running water at the end of every tour. Ensuring that children follow handwashing advice remains the responsibility of parents, teachers, or group leaders at all times during the visit.</p>

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Brushing/ Feeding the Pig	<p>The pig could inadvertently stand on the toe of a visitor.</p> <p>The pig could bite a visitor by accident or design.</p> <p>Possible bacterial contamination from pig to hands or clothes of small children.</p>	Low	<p>Select the pig according to temperament.</p> <p>The pigs used on the tour will be housed separately to avoid contamination by another.</p> <p>People who interact with the pig, treat him or her with respect.</p> <p>Children are not to be rough with the pig.</p> <p>If pig defecates in yard, clean up faeces immediately and disinfect the area with Biotrol/Vircon S.</p>

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Bottle Feeding Lambs	<p>The very young child thinking that the bottle is for them and drinking from it.</p> <p>Lifting of lambs using incorrect handling techniques and straining or spraining parts of the body.</p> <p>Being accidentally bitten by a lamb.</p> <p>Bacterial contamination on hands or clothing.</p> <p>Tripping over objects which may have been left by others.</p> <p>Transmission of Orf to children.</p> <p>Potential to contaminate clothing mobile phones and cameras when touching animals.</p> <p>Risk to pregnant ladies.</p>	Low	<p>Check the condition of animals being used on a daily basis and anything showing signs of sickness must be removed to isolation away from the visitor.</p> <p>Warn parents of young children to manage use of the bottle. Warn parents of children under the age of five to manage the “fingers in mouth habits”.</p> <p>The back must not be used as a lever when lifting anything.</p> <p>Guide must be on the look out for objects which might cause a tripping hazard for visitors.</p> <p>Management of groups containing children under the age of five - bottle to be given to the adult minder who will engage the lamb and then hand the bottle to the child, but will continue to manage the situation. Inform that antibacterial foam is available in the short term.</p> <p>Point out sanitiser locations and aid children to operate if needed.</p> <p>Guide must insist that everyone washes their hands thoroughly at the end of the tour. Ensuring that children follow handwashing advice remains the responsibility of the parents, teachers, or group leaders at all times during the visit.</p> <p>Inform that mousse and wipes do not replace handwashing.</p> <p>Installation of stock boarding in front of pens used for lamb feeding to prevent contamination of clothing of young children.</p> <p>Public to remain outside of animal enclosures - standing on clean concrete, which has been disinfected prior to the start of each days tours. Staff to wear appropriate PPE when entering animal pens.</p> <p>Advise adults of the need for care to prevent contamination of clothing, mobile phones, and cameras.</p> <p>Lambs deemed not to be in good health for whatever reason - orf, scour - to be removed from public contact to isolation area.</p> <p>Pregnant ladies informed of risk prior to entry into the feeding area and advised not to participate in bottle feeding, touch lambs, or come into contact with those who have participated until hands have been washed.</p>

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Handling Poultry	<p>Someone being pecked or scratched.</p> <p>Bacterial contamination.</p> <p>Allergic reaction to feathers.</p> <p>Avian flu.</p>	Low	<p>Tour guide to maintain strict control.</p> <p>Regarding faecal matter from birds the EHO has informed that we cannot be held responsible for feet contaminated by wild ducks, crows, rabbits etc, therefore visitor hygiene must be underlined thoroughly. If footwear is changed before eating, hands must be washed.</p> <p>Show participants how to hold poultry - firmly holding the wings.</p> <p>As far as holding the chicks is concerned, be sure to ask the children not to squeeze them as the chick is at risk here, particularly with toddlers !</p> <p>In the event of Avian Flu' arriving in Britain, all poultry will be housed and not come into contact with visitors.</p> <p>Advised to use foot baths at the start and end of tour to clean shoes and pushchair/wheelchair wheels.</p>
Child Protection	<p>Lost parents resulting in staff being left alone with children.</p> <p>Safeguarding concerns.</p> <p>Visible children in promotional photography.</p>	Low	<p>Designated child protection officer onsite at all times who will hold an enhanced DBS check and deal with such issues if they arise.</p> <p>Any photography taking place will be clearly advertised and signed permission sought from parent/guardian.</p> <p>All children remain the responsibility of their parent/guardian at all times.</p>

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Inspecting/feeding larger animals at close quarters - sheep, cows, goats, ponies, donkey	<p>When visitors are looking at the larger animals in the field be sure to warn them to keep their feet well away from the animals to avoid having toes trodden on.</p> <p>Take care not to have people, in particular children stand immediately in front of animals, because animals being animals may just decide to walk forward and knock them over.</p> <p>Allowing children to run around and be noisy, can cause anxiety amongst the animals and so risk accidents.</p> <p>Warn visitors about cow pats and the like. Some people are quite distressed if they dirty their shoes. If you notice that this is the case, give them paper towels upon returning to the building and ask them to make sure that they wash their hands well afterwards.</p> <p>Small children may fall into dirt. If parents have a change of clothing with them, assist them in cleaning the child or ask another member of staff for help.</p> <p>Gates and barriers may become contaminated by faeces.</p> <p>Accidental biting of fingers when feeding by hand.</p>	<p>Low</p>	<p>When in the field with visitors it is essential that they obey your rules to avoid accidents - bumps and bruises. In the event of an accident, contact a first aider who will use the first aid box and write up the accident in the accident book. However we must avoid accidents at all costs.</p> <p>Guide to demonstrate how to feed animals keeping the hand flat in the case of feeding small nuts.</p> <p>Daily Procedure prior to start of tours. Pressure-wash walls, barriers and yard ensuring that gates and contact areas are free from contamination. Brush away surplus water.</p> <p>We must always be mindful of the health risks of E Coli 157 etc., therefore after a tour you must insist in a nice way that everyone who has touched animals must wash their hands thoroughly using:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • antibacterial soap • paper towels • electric hand dryer

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Investigation/ Observation of Wildlife (Mini-beasts - Plants)	<p>Cuts, trips and slips.</p> <p>Bacterial contamination.</p> <p>Insect bites and stings.</p> <p>Allergies/reactions to plants.</p>	Low	<p>Centre staff will inspect area for moveable hazards prior to group use.</p> <p>Careful instruction before investigation takes place to include:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Respect/attention to detail/care/for nature. • Do not run, trample on plants/mini- beasts. • Centre equipment to be used as instructed and returned after use. • Do not put fingers in mouth, in hair, in nose or rub eyes. • Supervised handwashing immediately after finishing the task. • All children to stay within defined boundary. • Adequate supervision at all times. <p>Prior to visit – Staff to identify children with allergies and bring their medication as a precautionary measure.</p> <p>Prior to visit; plan adequate clothing and protection in relation to weather – rain, cold, sunshine.</p>
Pedal Go-Karts & Ride ons (outdoors)	<p>Collision with pedestrians at change-over.</p> <p>Because this is a family activity all users must be mindful of their speed and more inexperienced users.</p> <p>Collision caused by inability to apply brakes.</p> <p>Collision caused by underdeveloped motor skills.</p> <p>Bacterial Contamination of grass surface by wild rabbits /birds and other stray farm animals including dogs.</p>	Low	<p>Users must not on the track, when others are driving.</p> <p>Adjust seats on go-karts according to size of rider.</p> <p>Riders must not use equipment which is the wrong size for them - too small - too big.</p> <p>When first using go-karts all users must experiment with brake before building up speed.</p> <p>Restrict overzealous use and speed risking collision.</p> <p>Barriers to prevent collision with boundaries and objects.</p> <p>Each item to be checked daily for damage which could put the user at risk.</p> <p>Daily walk over course to check for contamination of grass and toys. Then clean and sanitise as appropriate (4% solution of Byotrol Micro-cleanse following cleaning).</p>

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Wooly Jumpers Play Barn (Indoor Play, but not soft play)	<p>Falls, Trips slips, colliding & climbing resulting in cuts and bruises.</p> <p>Collision with others or objects.</p> <p>Bullying and intimidation of younger more vulnerable children.</p> <p>Horseplay with friends resulting in accidents.</p> <p>Risk to other users from children wearing calipers and or other metal braces if in collision on slides or elsewhere. Also risk of damage to equipment which then becomes another hazard to all.</p> <p>Cross contamination, caused by removal of shoes.</p>	Low	<p>This is not a Soft Play Area, because there are some hard surfaces. E.g. the stairs, steps, metre drop.</p> <p>Everyone using this area MUST REMOVE SHOES, but WEAR SOCKS.</p> <p>All parents are informed on arrival of the rules.</p> <p>All shoes and sharp objects to be removed from the person, before using the equipment.</p> <p>A person wearing calipers will not be permitted to use the slides and climbing equipment in view safety to self and others.</p> <p>Toddlers require greater parental supervision, when the play barn is in multi-use.</p> <p>The barn works on the basis of shared space, which requires respect and tolerance of all users. Authoritative staff monitoring and explanation needed to maintain the culture.</p> <p>Provide sanitizing gel for use prior to entry into play area/ prior to eating to reduce bacterial contamination on hands.</p> <p>Additional notices to remind people to wash hands after changing footwear, before eating and drinking.</p> <p>Member(s) of staff present at all times to manage and monitor behaviour.</p> <p>Parent/Guardians acknowledge their own responsibility for safety of minor.</p> <p>Staff to monitor the playbarn to encourage safe use.</p> <p>Adhere to strict rules when using the slides – No one starts until the bottom is clear.</p> <p>No horseplay.</p> <p>No climbing on safety netting.</p> <p>No throwing of balls.</p>

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			<p>No sweets or food to be consumed on the play equipment.</p> <p>No anti-social behaviour.</p> <p>Detailed daily inspection and cleaning of equipment.</p> <p>ROSPA Inspection & Certification.</p>
Barrel Train	<p>Possible knocks to the passenger, on bodywork of barrel when train in motion and going over bumpy ground.</p> <p>Collision with grazing animals if present in fields.</p> <p>Young children bumping head or face on steering wheel if not adjusted properly.</p> <p>Person falling if trying to leave while train still in motion.</p> <p>Possible contamination of barrels with mud and faeces from feet of users, during wet weather conditions.</p>	Low	<p>Driver of barrel train will only be a family member, responsible for public safety, who is competent in the use of mechanical machinery and it's limitations.</p> <p>Staff to give assistance to passengers entering and leaving barrels.</p> <p>All passengers must wear a seat lap belt and staff will check that it is correctly adjusted to suit the size of the passenger.</p> <p>Steering wheel adjustment checked to suit the passenger.</p> <p>Passengers told to stay in seat until the barrel is stationary.</p> <p><u>Toddlers</u> to be accompanied by an adult (one charge per barrel). Barrel train driver to assess the safety of the combination of the two persons in connection with identified risks. Take into account size of bodies and proximity to hard surfaces. Driver to check with passengers to ascertain their safety and comfort.</p> <p>Check all barrels for contamination prior to each use and clean, dry, and sanitise as appropriate.</p> <p>Do not use in very wet conditions in view of possible splashes causing contamination of clothing.</p>

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Designated Eating Areas	<p>Infection.</p> <p>Possible contamination of benches, tables, and ground where people may decide to eat, because of soiling by wild birds.</p> <p>Visitors contaminating picnic benches with brought in food. Followed by use of other visitors.</p>	Low	<p>Addition of signs in prominent places to raise awareness of the need for good hygiene practices.</p> <p>Regularly check bench and table tops and deal with accordingly.</p> <p>Visitors asked to clean up after themselves and take their rubbish home.</p> <p>Signs to remind visitors to wash their hands before eating their picnic.</p> <p>No farm animals allowed in areas where people eat food outdoors.</p>
Handwash Station To combat Animal Zoonoses And other infections	<p>Infection.</p> <p>Illness.</p>	Low	<p>We will ensure that everyone who has completed the farm tour washes their hands with liquid soap and running water before handling food or drink or leaving the farm. Supervisors leaving before this must ensure that any child with them washes their hands.</p> <p><u>DISINFECTANT GELS ARE NOT A SUBSTITUTE FOR USING SOAP AND WATER AND CAN ONLY BE USED AS A TEMPORARY MEASURE BEFORE USING THE HAND WASH STATION.</u></p> <p>Supervisors should be aware that there is always risk of infection in all environments; the countryside and farms being no exception.</p> <p>All stock are inspected on a daily basis to ensure that they are fit and healthy, but they can still carry pathogenic bacteria, therefore it is essential that children must not put their fingers in their mouths after touching animals or objects on the farm.</p>
First Aid	<p>Stings</p> <p>Hay fever</p> <p>Allergies</p> <p>Asthma</p>	Low	<p>Whilst we have a qualified first aider on site who will deal with any incident we do not administer any preparations for the problems listed and these must accompany the child e.g. Asthma sufferers must bring their inhalers. Those people with known allergies must bring their medication with them.</p>

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Fire	Panic Loss of control Injury	Low	A Fire Risk Assessment has been carried out and in the event of a fire our staff will lead you to the Fire Assembly Point at the beginning of the Car Park, where supervisors will carry out a roll call of those in their care.
Electric Fencing	Shock.	Low	There are places where electric fencing is used to control stock. It is labelled. Please ensure that children do not touch this as they will get an unpleasant shock.
Prohibited Areas	Various Hazards.	Low	It is essential that supervisors ensure that children are instructed not to go beyond designated areas. Prohibited areas are indicated, sectioned off, and are only accessible to staff.
Events	Various.	Low	Events are controlled by their own Risk Assessments. These are produced for each activity and will be supplied on request.
Covid-19	Infection Illness	Low	<p>All animal contact will be modified to comply with current guidelines.</p> <p>Toilets and all equipment/contact areas are cleaned regularly throughout the day.</p> <p>Sanitizer is available at regular intervals around the farm and visitors are encouraged to sanitise regularly.</p> <p>Advance booking to aid control of visitor numbers.</p> <p>All visitors are asked to provide contact details should we need to contact them regarding an outbreak of Covid-19. Visitors will also be asked to declare any symptoms.</p> <p>Safety signs on display around site to remind visitors to maintain high levels of personal hygiene.</p>

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Electric Quadbikes (outdoor)	<p>Collision with pedestrians at change-over.</p> <p>Collision caused by underdeveloped motor skills.</p> <p>Damage caused to machines due to incorrect use.</p> <p>Machine malfunction due to incorrect maintenance.</p> <p>Bacterial/viral contamination of machine by previous users.</p>	Low	<p>Users must not walk on the track at any time other than to mount a machine.</p> <p>Controlled finish line to reduce the risk of collision with pedestrians at changeover.</p> <p>Speed restriction of 4mph to reduce collision risk.</p> <p>Small children can be accompanied by an adult.</p> <p>Barriers to prevent collision with boundaries and objects.</p> <p>Each item to be checked daily for damage which could put the user at risk.</p> <p>Handwash and sanitizer stations located around the site for use prior to entry into play area/after use of equipment. Staff members on hand to manage safe use.</p> <p>The area will be supervised at all times by a trained member of staff to prevent misuse of the equipment.</p> <p>Written rules for customers to familiarise themselves with before use.</p> <p>Removal of machines and closure of track during heavy rain.</p> <p>Daily walkover of course and daytime monitoring to check for obstructions.</p> <p>Weight limit of 130kg as per manufacturer's guidelines.</p> <p>Removal of machines and closure of track during heavy rain.</p> <p>Daily walkover of course and daytime monitoring to check for obstructions.</p> <p>Daily, weekly, and monthly inspection and maintenance by a competent member of staff.</p>

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Play Combine (outdoor)	<p>Falls, trips, slips resulting in cuts and bruises.</p> <p>Friction burn if not correctly dressed.</p> <p>Bullying and intimidation of younger more vulnerable children.</p> <p>Horseplay with friends resulting in accidents.</p> <p>Contamination by wild birds and humans.</p>	Low	<p>Toddlers require greater parental supervision when the equipment is in multi-use.</p> <p>Covering and closure of area during and immediately after heavy rain.</p> <p>Safety matting fitted at a width of 2 metres around the play frame.</p> <p>Handwash and sanitizer stations located around the site for use prior to entry into play area/prior to eating to reduce bacterial contamination on hands.</p> <p>Additional notices to remind people to wash hands after changing footwear, before eating and drinking.</p> <p>Member(s) of staff present to manage and monitor behaviour.</p> <p>Parent/Guardians acknowledge their own responsibility for safety of minor.</p> <p>No horseplay.</p> <p>No sweets or food to be consumed on the play equipment.</p> <p>No anti-social behaviour.</p> <p>Regular inspection and cleaning of equipment.</p>