

An Creagán Field Work Potential Hazards

The following table shows the potential hazards identified specifically relating to Field Work in the bog and forest areas and is intended to assist group leaders in assessing the risk for their group and to take appropriate measures to minimise the risk of injury. It is not an exhaustive assessment.

Potential Hazard	Control measures that An Creagán has taken	Suggested Control measures for visiting groups
Tripping or falling	Paths to and from the areas are well maintained and kept clear of trip hazards. Tracks away from the main paths are rough trails and while obvious hazards are dealt with as they arise, care should be taken by both students and adults. Field work is conducted on open habitat where it is wet and unimproved.	Pupils and adults should wear robust and well-fitting boots or shoes, appropriate to the activity being undertaken. Groups/individuals should only go off the path in areas where it is indicated by staff that it is safe to do so.
Ponds	Ponds are clearly visible and Hand washing facilities are available in the centre to minimise risk of disease from soil or water borne pathogens.	Students should be adequately supervised as required by their age/ability/behaviour. Wash hands after visit and before eating. Groups/individuals should only go off the path in areas where it is indicated by staff that it is safe to do so.
Getting Lost	Printed maps are available from reception and are posted at various points around the pathways. Education staff are familiar with the site and can provide guidance on safe areas to conduct activities.	Groups should stay together for the duration of the visit and follow instructions from centre staff. An Creagán recommend that supervising staff familiarise themselves with the site before bringing students. Please be aware that phone signal can be extremely limited and should not be relied upon as a means of raising the alarm in case of emergency.
Cuts, grazes and stings	Sensible measures are taken to control such plants as brambles and nettles although they are not eradicated. Bees. Wasps and other biting/stinging insects are present as in any outdoor area and are not controlled.	Group leaders and staff should bring a first aid kit and know how to use it. Leaders should be aware of allergies amongst the children in their care and the adults accompanying them and have a procedure for dealing with incidents. Insect repellent spray or cream is useful in deterring insect pests, although for some people can cause a

		more severe reaction than a bite or sting!
Environmental Factors – sunburn, hypothermia	The site includes many natural areas of shade and shelter and an indoor space can be made available for use in extreme conditions.	Students and adults should wear clothing appropriate to the weather conditions as well as sun protection cream when required. Trips should be postponed if severe weather is forecast.
Ingestion	Poisoning by plants/fungi is a very rare occurrence and is usually a result of intentional preparation of plants and fungi as a food. We do not encourage visiting groups to eat anything other than the food they have brought.	Students should be instructed to only eat food that is intended for consumption.
Injury from equipment	The equipment supplied is standard fieldworking apparatus and is well maintained by staff. Instruction will be given by centre staff in the correct use of fieldworking equipment. Sensible and careful use of all equipment is expected.	Behaviour should be managed in the same way as it is inside the classroom and children encouraged to be sensible and considerate. If unfamiliar with a piece of equipment, staff or students should consult with centre staff.

When developing a Risk Assessment we would encourage group leaders to carry out a site visit ahead of their session and meet with the on-site education staff to answer any questions arising.

Contact;

Peter Brown
 Biodiversity Education Officer
 An Creagan
 186 Barony Road
 Omagh
 Co. Tyrone
 BT79 9AB

Tel:028 8076 1112
 Email : biodiversity@ancreagan.com