



PLAYAWAY OUTSIDE AREAS
RISK ASSESSMENT

PARTICIPATION STATEMENT

Playaway recognises that the natural environment cannot be totally risk free. All groups participating in on-site activities should be aware of and accept these risks and be responsible for their groups activities.

Playaway's land is used to enhance the habitat for flora and fauna in order for visitors to enjoy.

Risks and hazards involved can be minimised with common sense and competent supervision.

Statement of risk

Risk is an integral part of what we do on a daily basis and can play a vital role in helping young people to acquire extremely important life skills. Accidents can happen in any environments due to circumstances which the individual or leader has no control. This risk needs to be balanced against the benefit that will be regained through enhancing and developing knowledge and understanding of the environment.

You must ensure a competent person supervises all participants on site at all times.

The Health Safety Executive defines a 'competent person' as someone who has sufficient training and experience or knowledge and other qualities that allow them to assist you properly. The level of competence required will depend on the complexity of the situation and the particular help you need.

Natural environment hazards					
Hazard	Specifics	consequences	Control measure	Participant Action	
Insects	Wasps, bees, ticks	Stings, bites and infections allergic reactions Lyme's disease	First aid equipment Tick tweezers Epi Pen	Group parental consent form to administer medication. See notes at bottom.	
Plants	Nettles, hogweed, thistle. bramble Poisonous Berries Fungi	Stings Poisons Scratches Allergic reaction.	Targeted Strimming, spraying, pasture topping	Pre advice and supervision.	
Wild Animals	Deer, foal, game birds Dead animals	Bites, attack, infections	Unpastured topped areas, ponds, scrapes and copse. Fencing and gates Designated wild bird Feeding areas	Pre advice and supervision.	
Weather	Fallen branches, low visibility, swollen beck, sunburn	Injury, burns, drowning, falls and death	Land management and maintenance. Weather forecasts, Periodic external inspections/survey of trees.	Supervisor and site staff to communicate to site users exclusion areas in event of high winds and/or high rainfall/water levels.	
Long Grass/overgrowth	Tripping hazards Wild animals, birds nesting in hidden area	Injury Slip, trips and falls Stings, bites, attack	Pre advice documentation Provision of regularly cut routes to provide access	Competent Supervision Pre advice	

			to/through areas.		
Becks	Drop into beck. Swollen due to rainfall Strong current Bridge Uneven surface – rocks, mud Steep embankment Weils disease	Injury Slip, trips and falls, drowning. Stings, bites, infection. Cuts, scratches, allergic reactions.	Severe weather condition guidance	Pre advice and supervision. Cuts etc. to be covered with waterproof dressings if undertaking water based activities. Where activities take place in the beck then throw lines should be carried – one throw line for each separate group in the beck. Supervisor and site staff to communicate to site users exclusion areas in event of high rainfall/water levels.	
Embankment –	Hill Woods -	Injury Slip, trips and falls	Supervision and control measure. Out of bounds, signage, natural barriers, dead hedging, shrubs and fencing.	Competent supervision Avoid entering	

Hazards	Those at risk	Existing Precautions	Risk Level	Severity	Likelihood	Groups to ensure
Top Camp Field	All	Young people follow leader instructions. Drop into woods= Fencing, shrubs, dead hedge, sign Designated camp fire area Open Fires= Follow guidelines. Area contained.	H (High)	5	2	Young people supervised at all times. Wear appropriate footwear. Read policy documents
Bottom Camp field	All	Young people follow leader instructions. Beck= Group staff to warn children of dangers Designated camp fire area Avoid in bad weather. (when beck is swollen) Open Fires= Follow guidelines Area contained (gated)	H	5	3	Young people supervised at all times. Wear appropriate footwear. Read policy documents
Uneven Surfaces On Land	All	Young people follow leader instructions. Constant supervision of children Pasture topped (twice yearly, except for pond areas)	M (Med)	5	3	Young people supervised at all times. Wear appropriate footwear
House Garden	All	Young people follow leader instructions. BBQ Area = Fire bucket Equipment checked before and after use	H	5	2	Young people supervised at all times. Wear appropriate footwear
Stone Barn Garden	All	Young people follow leader instructions. BBQ Area = Fire bucket Equipment checked before and after use	H	5	2	Young people supervised at all times. Wear appropriate footwear
Bottom Play Area	All	Young people follow leader instructions. Area mowed/strimmed Equipment checked regularly	M	5	2	Young people supervised at all times. Wear appropriate footwear
Top Play Area	All	Young people follow leader instructions. Area mowed/strimmed Equipment checked regularly	M	5	3	Young people supervised at all times. Wear appropriate footwear
Outside Eating Area	All	Young people follow leader instructions. Slippery When Wet Signs	L (Low)	5	2	Young people supervised at all times. Wear appropriate footwear

Potential Hazards	Those at risk	Existing Precautions	Risk Level	Severity	Likelihood	Groups to ensure
Top Camp Field Steep Drop into woods Open Fire Roadside	All	Young people follow leader instructions. Drop into woods= Fencing, shrubs, dead hedge, sign Only use designated camp fire area Area contained.	H (High)	5	2	Young people supervised at all times. Wear appropriate footwear. Read policy documents
Bottom Camp field	All	Young people follow leader instructions. Beck= Group staff to warn children of dangers Designated camp fire area Avoid in bad weather. (when beck is swollen) Open Fires= Follow guidelines Area contained (gated)	H	5	3	Young people supervised at all times. Wear appropriate footwear. Read policy documents

A suitable first aid kit may be carried. Due to the significant risk associated with allergic reaction to bee and wasp stings by some individuals group leaders should be made aware of anyone who is known to have bee or wasp sting allergies and be aware of the procedure to follow in the event of a sting.

Advised footwear when using outdoor areas: Flat non-slip shoes/trainers. In wet weather, boots are advised due to muddy conditions.

First aid equipment is kept in all buildings on the site; main first aid box is in office. All groups are informed of location of the office on arrival.

- Qualified first aider – Mark Hughes (Or weekend staff)
- Nearest A&E Hospital – Airedale general Hospital
- Report to manager – (or weekend staff) immediately