

Mother Shipton's Cave - Risk Assessment Form for Schools [2015]

Last Updated: 29/01/15

This Risk Assessment is a careful examination of the potential hazards on site that could cause harm to visitors.

Serious accidents can ruin lives and so we do everything possible to reduce the likelihood of any accidents occurring.

We can help to reduce the risk even further by providing our visitors with a prior knowledge of these hazards and how best to avoid them.

Over the next two pages is a Risk Assessment detailing the hazards that exist on site, the measures we are currently taking to prevent them, and advice on how groups can take further preventative action to stop such events occurring.

Risk Assessment - Part 1

What are the hazards?	Who might be harmed and how?	What are we doing already?	Further preventative action that may be taken by supervisors of the visiting group
Slips, trips and falls	All persons may suffer sprains or fractures if they trip over debris or slip on spillages.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Due to the very nature of the petrifying well, it is impossible to ensure the area immediately in front of it remains dry at all times. However a handrail surrounds the attraction and the floor is also periodically brushed with industrial cleaner to prevent a slippery surface forming. - Play areas conform to European Standard BS EN 1176 - Adventure playgrounds are designed so there are no falls greater than 2m, and all areas with falls over 1m are covered in soft wood chippings to a depth of 12 inches - All steps have handrails 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ensure that each of the group has suitable footwear and keep to the paths provided in the park - Young people should be supervised at all times - It is strongly recommended that only children between the ages of 4-11 yrs should be allowed on the adventure playground, and only children between the ages of 6-12yrs on the woodland playground
Electric shock	Visitors venturing into restricted areas may come into contact with a live electricity supply	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lighting at the cave and petrifying well is 12 volts - Hazardous areas are fenced off or locked away. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Staff, young people, group leaders should all be aware of safety signs,
Noise	Visitors eardrums may be damaged by the sound from various power tools used in the park, especially the elderly and the very young	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Groundskeepers will turn off equipment (leaf blowers, hedge cutters etc.) until you have safely passed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Due to the nature of some of their work being very noisy our groundskeepers may not notice you immediately, if this is the case please be patient and wait until they do, and have cut power to their tools before you proceed
Falling in the river	All visitors who venture too close to the water may fall in and non-swimmers may drown	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Exposed parts of the river are slow flowing and average 3 foot deep - Lifebuoys available next to car park picnic area 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Young people to be made aware of risk on entry to the park - Ensure everyone stays on the paths provided
Vehicles	Staff and visitors may suffer serious injuries such as fractures and internal damage, if struck by a vehicle	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 5mph speed limit signs and children crossing signs are in place throughout the park - Speed bumps are also in place en-route to the car park to ensure safe speeds are not exceeded 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Group leader may direct young people to move to one side of the road until slow moving vehicle has passed - All persons must be made aware of reversing vehicles, especially in the car park

Risk Assessment - Part 2

What are the hazards?	Who might be harmed and how?	What are we doing already?	Further preventative action that may be taken by supervisors of the visiting group
<p>Medical conditions brought on by physical exertion</p>	<p>Asthma sufferers may experience an attack while walking through the park or while on the adventure playground. Physical exertion may also bring on other medical conditions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There are rest points(benches) at regular intervals along the woodland walk, which can be used if visitors begin to feel out of breath 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Make sure medications/inhalers are carried at all times while in the park
<p>Lost or missing person</p>	<p>Young people travelling in a group may become lost or wander off park limits</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - If you are being guided around the park by a tour guide, they will do their best to ensure the group keeps together and no-one falls behind - Both park entrances are staffed and so any unescorted young people can be stopped from exiting the park on their own 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Advise young people not to wander off without asking permission and informing their supervisors where they are going - A clear brief to all young people about the dangers of contact with strangers, and that they should stay in groups of no less than 3 or with a staff member - Advise young people to seek a member of park staff if they are lost
<p>Violent or abusive behaviour</p>	<p>Staff and visitors may be subject to verbal or physical abuse from other members of the public</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - We refuse to admit people who appear under the influence of drugs or alcohol 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - If you are subject to violent or abusive behaviour whilst in the park, please contact the nearest member of staff so they may remove the offender from the premises
<p>Dead branches falling from trees</p>	<p>Staff and visitors may be struck by falling branches</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Groundskeepers walk through the park daily, inspecting trees and removing any dead branches in danger of falling 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - None needed
<p>Fire</p>	<p>Building could burn down with staff and visitors trapped inside</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fire legislation throughout the park is adhered to, with suitable appliances in all buildings under service contract 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Group leader may want to organise a rally point for use in the unlikely event of a fire
<p>Food Poisoning</p>	<p>Staff and visitors consuming food on the premises</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The park staff follow a strict hygiene policy, café staff complete basic hygiene awards - Outside benches are cleaned periodically 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - We recommend that all persons wash hands before eating, either at the toilets in the park or with their own hand sanitizer