


Risk assessment should always be seen as a process rather than a document , though the latter is what many teachers use as their reference point for planning safe and inclusive fieldwork.

Risk assessment involves

- recognising potential hazards at the field site and in the nature of the way the fieldwork tasks will be completed.
- evaluating the extent to which the hazard poses a risk to the students and staff, as well as to members of the public who may or may not be involved in the fieldwork directly.
- making plans for the adoption of certain actions or practices, including the use of PPE to mitigate any risks.

Risk assessment should be active rather than passive. The mitigating actions need to be carried out before and during the fieldwork and staff should be constantly monitoring for how changes in conditions (such as the weather) may affect the nature of the hazard and associated risk. Risk assessment also needs to be detailed and specific to a particular location, activity and cohort of students. This means it is not acceptable to reuse a past risk assessment document and simply change the date.

In terms of the documentation of risk assessment, there is no legal requirement for a risk assessment to follow any particular format - though a 'scorecard' is the most common approach.



Risk assessment

Field site name	Westover Farm - southern end		W3W	openly . risk . grapevine	Date of fieldwork	01.01.25
Tasks being undertaken	Soil sampling; Infiltration survey					

Risk	Initial			Risk control measures inc. PPE	Controlled	
	Severity	Likelihood	Risk		Likelihood	Risk
Uneven ground	2	2	4	Special care to be taken around ploughed furrows. Students advised to keep to designated footpaths and field margins where necessary.	1	2
Livestock	3	2	6	Students advised not to approach farm animals. Students to minimise noise levels around livestock. No attempt should be made to feed livestock. Working areas around livestock should be avoided.	1	3
Machinery	3	2	6	Students should be aware of moving farm machinery. Machinery should be out of range before group continues tasks. No one to approach an idle piece of farm machinery. There should be no access to land during harvesting season.	1	3
Chemical exposure	3	1	3	Fieldwork should be planned at a time when no spraying is taking place. Leader to be mindful of wind direction and spraying on adjacent land. Students to wash hands after handling soil, even if on an organic farm.	1	3

Severity score measured on 1 - 3 scale. Likelihood score measured on 1 - 3 scale. Total risk calculated by multiplying severity score by likelihood score. Any activity with a total controlled risk score of 6 or more will not take place.

Students with additional considerations		Actions / Supports	

Nearest hospital / medical centre	St Mary's A&E, Newport
Nearest defibrillator	The Sun Inn, Calbourne

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the site, the tasks and when the fieldwork will take place

potential hazards identified

scores given for severity of hazard and likelihood of it happening

risk score calculated by multiplying severity score by likelihood score

control measures that will be taken to reduce likelihood

new likelihood and risk scores considering the control measures

students who might be more susceptible to risk and control measures for them

locations of further medical help