



**Swaledale and Arkengarthdale Archaeology Group
(SWAAG)**

**Excavations and Fieldwork Activities
Risk Assessment**

This Risk Assessment addresses key hazards which may be encountered by anyone visiting or participating in an excavation and in fieldwork (e.g. surveying). It is not an exhaustive list but a guide to safe working practices.

In respect of Children and Young People under 18 years of age this Risk Assessment must be read in conjunction with the SWAAG Safety Policy for Children and Young People, which requires Children and Young People to be supervised at all times by a Responsible Adult.

Activity	Possible hazards	Possible injury	Reduce risk by
Travel to and from venue.	Traffic: walking by road, crossing road, getting on/off bus or in/out of car.	Road accident.	Responsible Adult to supervise children and young people at all times. Check for traffic.
Public spaces and open sites, buildings open to the public.	Abduction, interference, children lost/left behind.		Responsible Adult to supervise Children and Young People at all times.
Working in fields - excavating and surveying.	Slippery grass and mud, stones and rocks. Uneven surfaces. Animals.	Slips, sprains, broken bones. Slips sprains, broken bones. Bruising, broken bones, infections.	Wear appropriate footwear. Do not run. Wear appropriate footwear. Do not run. Avoid all contact with animals. Do not feed.

<p>Working in fields - excavating and surveying (cont).</p>	<p>Mechanical excavation equipment.</p>	<p>Bruising, broken bones.</p>	<p>Stand clear, wear appropriate personal protection equipment - safety helmets, reflective vests.</p> <p>Responsible Adult to supervise Children and Young People at all times.</p>
<p>Visiting, and participating in excavations and fieldwork.</p>	<p>Ingestion of soil from muddy hands.</p> <p>Tripping hazards, e.g. tools, string pegs, ropes, spoil and stone piles.</p> <p>Excavation tools e.g. trowels, mattocks, picks, spades, shovels (<i>N.B. tools designed for adult use may be unwieldy for younger children</i>).</p> <p>Heavy objects e.g. large stones, filled buckets, filled sieves.</p> <p>Falling - trenches could be up to a metre deep.</p>	<p>Stomach upsets.</p> <p>Abrasions, eye injuries, sprains, broken bones.</p> <p>Impacts causing cuts, abrasions, bruising and broken bones.</p> <p>Strains and injuries caused by lifting. Broken bones particularly in feet through dropping of heavy objects.</p> <p>Sprains, bruises, broken bones.</p>	<p>Do not eat until you have thoroughly cleaned your hands. Wear gloves when carrying out an excavation.</p> <p>Do not leave equipment lying around the edge of trenches. Take care when moving around the site. Be aware of what others are doing.</p> <p>Do not swing tools above head height. Keep people well back and out of the way. Safety footwear is recommended and MUST be worn when using a mattock or pick.</p> <p>Do not lift heavy objects, seek help, and/or reduce load in heavy containers. Do not lift using your back. Safety footwear is recommended and MUST be worn when lifting heavy stones.</p> <p>Avoid walking on the edge of trenches and take care when walking in trenches. Ensure that tools, equipment and spoil are not left untidily around the edge of trenches.</p>

Visiting, and participating in excavations and fieldwork (cont).			Responsible Adult to supervise Children and Young People at all times.
Handling finds – in trenches and whilst washing.	Sharp objects e.g. glass, rusty iron, flint, brick and tile, human or animal bone.	Cuts, abrasions, infection.	Wear gloves. Do not eat whilst handling finds. Responsible Adult to supervise Children and Young People at all times.
General outdoor activities.	Weather extremes.	Cold, wet, sunburn, dehydration.	Wear clothing appropriate to the weather conditions. Bring spare clothing and supplies of suncream, insect bite cream, and water. Responsible adult to supervise Children and Young People at all times.
Disease	Covid Transmission	Covid-19 infection	Outdoor activity; limit number of participants; social distancing to be maintained; participants to provide and wear gloves; participants to provide their own masks and hand sanitiser/wipes; equipment to be sanitised before and after use; users to clean and air toilet after use; additional hand sanitiser and wipes to be purchased

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