HERD THYME ALTERNATIVE PROVISION

Activity Risk Assessments

August 2026

Assessor: Samantha Wallace
Approver: Kara Dhyan
Review: August 2027 (or sooner following significant change, incident or near miss)

These assessments should be read alongside Herd Thyme safeguarding, first aid, emergency, fire, medication, behaviour/positive support and site procedures.

Contents

1. Allergies

2. Archery

3. Bareback Riding

4. Crossing Roads or Railway Crossings

5. Duck Puddle

6. Electric Fence

7. Equines, Goats, Sheep and Cows

8. Gas Stove

9. Glue Gun

10. Horse and Goat Cart

11. Keeping safe around horses in a field and yard

12. Kitchen and Cooking

13. Knife Policy

14. Leading a Horse

15. Lone Working

16. Making a controlled open campfire in Woodland

17. Manual Handling

18. Muck Heap

19. Physical Restraint

20. Public footpath through the farm

21. Putting on a headcollar / grooming

22. Pyrography Pen

23. Shepherds Hut and Gypsy Wagon

24. Stable Yard and tools

25. Toilet Use

26. Trips and Falls

27. Woodburner

28. Work related stress

29. Working at height

30. Yoga

30. Stream Field

31. Rope Swings

32. Crossing a Canal Lock Walkway with Handrail/Handle

Risk Assessment: Allergies

Organisation	Herd Thyme Alternative Provision
Location	Herd Thyme, Crofton, Wiltshire / relevant off-site location where separately approved
Assessment Date	August 2026
Review Date	August 2027
Assessor / Approver	Samantha Wallace / Kara Dhyan

Activity

Supervised participation in allergies as part of Herd Thyme Alternative Provision activities, adapted to the age, ability, needs and individual risk profile of each child or young person.

Persons at Risk

- Children and young people attending sessions
- Staff and volunteers
- Visitors and other persons who may be affected

Risk Assessment Statement

Herd Thyme Alternative Provision supports practical, outdoor and experiential learning while managing foreseeable risks so far as is reasonably practicable. Staff must use this assessment alongside individual information and a dynamic risk assessment before and during the activity. If safe control cannot be maintained, the activity must stop or be adapted.

Existing Control Measures

- Appropriate supervision and staff-to-child ratios are maintained.
- Staff explain boundaries, expected behaviour and stop instructions before the activity.
- A first aid kit, emergency contacts and a means of communication are available.
- Equipment/activity areas are visually checked before use and defects are removed from use or isolated.
- Individual medical, SEND, communication, sensory, behavioural and safeguarding needs are considered.
- Weather, ground, animal and environmental conditions are dynamically assessed where relevant.
- Incidents, near misses and significant concerns are recorded and used to review controls.

Hazard Assessment and Controls

Hazard	Possible Harm	Existing Controls	Further Actions / Monitoring
Known or unknown allergens in food, plants, animals, insect stings, latex or products	Allergic reaction, anaphylaxis, illness	Obtain current allergy/medical information before attendance; individual healthcare/emergency plans followed; allergens avoided where reasonably practicable; staff know emergency arrangements; prescribed emergency medication remains accessible in accordance with consent and medication procedures.	Ongoing monitoring. Record defects/incidents and review controls where needed.
Cross-contact during food or craft activities	Exposure to allergen	Check ingredient labels and product information; clean work surfaces/equipment; separate allergen-free items; supervise handwashing; do not share food or drinks.	Ongoing monitoring. Record defects/incidents and review controls where needed.
Delayed recognition of reaction	Escalation to serious illness	Staff observe for symptoms; stop activity; follow individual emergency plan; call 999 for suspected anaphylaxis/serious breathing difficulty; inform parent/carer and record incident.	Ongoing monitoring. Record defects/incidents and review controls where needed.

Emergency / Stop Procedure

- Stop the activity and make the area safe.
- Provide first aid and call 999 where there is serious injury, breathing difficulty, suspected anaphylaxis, loss of consciousness or other emergency.
- Supervise remaining children and move them to a safe area.
- Inform parent/carer and relevant manager as soon as practicable.
- Record the incident/near miss and review this assessment and any individual plan before the activity resumes.

Residual Risk Rating

Low to Medium when the stated controls, suitable supervision and individual/dynamic risk assessment are in place. Some activities may remain Medium due to their inherent nature and must only proceed when staff judge the conditions and participant needs to be suitable.

Relevant UK Legal / Guidance Framework

- Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974
- Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999
- Workplace (Health, Safety and Welfare) Regulations 1992 where applicable
- Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations 1998 (PUWER) where work equipment is used
- Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 2002 (COSHH) where hazardous substances/biological agents are relevant
- Manual Handling Operations Regulations 1992 where manual handling is relevant
- Work at Height Regulations 2005 where work at height is relevant
- Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 2013 (RIDDOR) where reporting thresholds are met
- Food Safety Act 1990 and food hygiene/allergen requirements where food is prepared or supplied
- Current safeguarding, first-aid, fire-safety and organisational policies/procedures as applicable.

Monitoring and Review

Review annually and sooner after an accident, incident or near miss; a significant change to equipment, activity, site or participant needs; new guidance; or where controls are found to be ineffective.

Assessor	Samantha Wallace	Date	August 2026
Approver	Kara Dhyan	Date	August 2026

Risk Assessment: Archery

Organisation	Herd Thyme Alternative Provision
Location	Herd Thyme, Crofton, Wiltshire / relevant off-site location where separately approved
Assessment Date	August 2026
Review Date	August 2027
Assessor / Approver	Samantha Wallace / Kara Dhyan

Activity

Supervised participation in archery as part of Herd Thyme Alternative Provision activities, adapted to the age, ability, needs and individual risk profile of each child or young person.

Persons at Risk

- Children and young people attending sessions
- Staff and volunteers
- Visitors and other persons who may be affected

Risk Assessment Statement

Herd Thyme Alternative Provision supports practical, outdoor and experiential learning while managing foreseeable risks so far as is reasonably practicable. Staff must use this assessment alongside individual information and a dynamic risk assessment before and during the activity. If safe control cannot be maintained, the activity must stop or be adapted.

Existing Control Measures

- Appropriate supervision and staff-to-child ratios are maintained.
- Staff explain boundaries, expected behaviour and stop instructions before the activity.
- A first aid kit, emergency contacts and a means of communication are available.
- Equipment/activity areas are visually checked before use and defects are removed from use or isolated.
- Individual medical, SEND, communication, sensory, behavioural and safeguarding needs are considered.
- Weather, ground, animal and environmental conditions are dynamically assessed where relevant.
- Incidents, near misses and significant concerns are recorded and used to review controls.

Hazard Assessment and Controls

Hazard	Possible Harm	Existing Controls	Further Actions / Monitoring
Bows, arrows and shooting line	Impact or penetrating injury	Only supervised, planned sessions; competent instructor/staff lead; designated shooting line and clearly defined range; nobody retrieves arrows until instructed; bows remain pointed down-range; no horseplay.	Ongoing monitoring. Record defects/incidents and review controls where needed.
People entering range or overshooting	Injury to participant, staff or visitor	Range positioned with safe overshoot/backstop and exclusion zone; access controlled; public/animals kept clear; activity stopped immediately if anyone enters danger area.	Ongoing monitoring. Record defects/incidents and review controls where needed.
Damaged equipment / unsuitable technique	Cuts, string injuries, equipment failure	Equipment inspected before use; damaged equipment removed; participants briefed and matched to suitable equipment; arm guards used where appropriate; safe stance and draw demonstrated.	Ongoing monitoring. Record defects/incidents and review controls where needed.

Emergency / Stop Procedure

- Stop the activity and make the area safe.
- Provide first aid and call 999 where there is serious injury, breathing difficulty, suspected anaphylaxis, loss of consciousness or other emergency.
- Supervise remaining children and move them to a safe area.
- Inform parent/carer and relevant manager as soon as practicable.
- Record the incident/near miss and review this assessment and any individual plan before the activity resumes.

Residual Risk Rating

Low to Medium when the stated controls, suitable supervision and individual/dynamic risk assessment are in place. Some activities may remain Medium due to their inherent nature and must only proceed when staff judge the conditions and participant needs to be suitable.

Relevant UK Legal / Guidance Framework

- Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974
- Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999
- Workplace (Health, Safety and Welfare) Regulations 1992 where applicable
- Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations 1998 (PUWER) where work equipment is used
- Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 2002 (COSHH) where hazardous substances/biological agents are relevant
- Manual Handling Operations Regulations 1992 where manual handling is relevant
- Work at Height Regulations 2005 where work at height is relevant
- Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 2013 (RIDDOR) where reporting thresholds are met
- Food Safety Act 1990 and food hygiene/allergen requirements where food is prepared or supplied
- Current safeguarding, first-aid, fire-safety and organisational policies/procedures as applicable.

Monitoring and Review

Review annually and sooner after an accident, incident or near miss; a significant change to equipment, activity, site or participant needs; new guidance; or where controls are found to be ineffective.

Assessor	Samantha Wallace	Date	August 2026
Approver	Kara Dhyan	Date	August 2026

Risk Assessment: Bareback Riding

Organisation	Herd Thyme Alternative Provision
Location	Herd Thyme, Crofton, Wiltshire / relevant off-site location where separately approved
Assessment Date	August 2026
Review Date	August 2027
Assessor / Approver	Samantha Wallace / Kara Dhyan

Activity

Supervised participation in bareback riding as part of Herd Thyme Alternative Provision activities, adapted to the age, ability, needs and individual risk profile of each child or young person.

Persons at Risk

- Children and young people attending sessions
- Staff and volunteers
- Visitors and other persons who may be affected

Risk Assessment Statement

Herd Thyme Alternative Provision supports practical, outdoor and experiential learning while managing foreseeable risks so far as is reasonably practicable. Staff must use this assessment alongside individual information and a dynamic risk assessment before and during the activity. If safe control cannot be maintained, the activity must stop or be adapted.

Existing Control Measures

- Appropriate supervision and staff-to-child ratios are maintained.
- Staff explain boundaries, expected behaviour and stop instructions before the activity.
- A first aid kit, emergency contacts and a means of communication are available.
- Equipment/activity areas are visually checked before use and defects are removed from use or isolated.
- Individual medical, SEND, communication, sensory, behavioural and safeguarding needs are considered.
- Weather, ground, animal and environmental conditions are dynamically assessed where relevant.
- Incidents, near misses and significant concerns are recorded and used to review controls.

Hazard Assessment and Controls

Hazard	Possible Harm	Existing Controls	Further Actions / Monitoring
Fall from horse	Head, spinal, limb or soft-tissue injury	Individual suitability assessed; calm suitable horse selected; approved riding hat correctly fitted and worn; enclosed suitable area; direct competent supervision; mounting assistance/block used; pace and activity adapted to rider ability.	Ongoing monitoring. Record defects/incidents and review controls where needed.
Horse movement, spook, kick or bite	Crush, kick, bite or fall injury	Horse temperament and health checked; horse handled by competent person; safe spacing maintained; no riding in unsafe weather/ground conditions; stop if horse/rider becomes distressed.	Ongoing monitoring. Record defects/incidents and review controls where needed.
Rider balance, medical or sensory needs	Loss of balance, anxiety or distress	Person-centred assessment and consent; session kept within ability; clear communication; additional support/leader as needed; dismount promptly if unsafe.	Ongoing monitoring. Record defects/incidents and review controls where needed.

Emergency / Stop Procedure

- Stop the activity and make the area safe.
- Provide first aid and call 999 where there is serious injury, breathing difficulty, suspected anaphylaxis, loss of consciousness or other emergency.
- Supervise remaining children and move them to a safe area.
- Inform parent/carer and relevant manager as soon as practicable.
- Record the incident/near miss and review this assessment and any individual plan before the activity resumes.

Residual Risk Rating

Low to Medium when the stated controls, suitable supervision and individual/dynamic risk assessment are in place. Some activities may remain Medium due to their inherent nature and must only proceed when staff judge the conditions and participant needs to be suitable.

Relevant UK Legal / Guidance Framework

- Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974
- Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999
- Workplace (Health, Safety and Welfare) Regulations 1992 where applicable
- Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations 1998 (PUWER) where work equipment is used
- Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 2002 (COSHH) where hazardous substances/biological agents are relevant
- Manual Handling Operations Regulations 1992 where manual handling is relevant
- Work at Height Regulations 2005 where work at height is relevant
- Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 2013 (RIDDOR) where reporting thresholds are met
- Food Safety Act 1990 and food hygiene/allergen requirements where food is prepared or supplied
- Current safeguarding, first-aid, fire-safety and organisational policies/procedures as applicable.

Monitoring and Review

Review annually and sooner after an accident, incident or near miss; a significant change to equipment, activity, site or participant needs; new guidance; or where controls are found to be ineffective.

Assessor	Samantha Wallace	Date	August 2026
Approver	Kara Dhyan	Date	August 2026

Risk Assessment: Crossing Roads or Railway Crossings

Organisation	Herd Thyme Alternative Provision
Location	Herd Thyme, Crofton, Wiltshire / relevant off-site location where separately approved
Assessment Date	August 2026
Review Date	August 2027
Assessor / Approver	Samantha Wallace / Kara Dhyan

Activity

Supervised participation in crossing roads or railway crossings as part of Herd Thyme Alternative Provision activities, adapted to the age, ability, needs and individual risk profile of each child or young person.

Persons at Risk

- Children and young people attending sessions
- Staff and volunteers
- Visitors and other persons who may be affected

Risk Assessment Statement

Herd Thyme Alternative Provision supports practical, outdoor and experiential learning while managing foreseeable risks so far as is reasonably practicable. Staff must use this assessment alongside individual information and a dynamic risk assessment before and during the activity. If safe control cannot be maintained, the activity must stop or be adapted.

Existing Control Measures

- Appropriate supervision and staff-to-child ratios are maintained.
- Staff explain boundaries, expected behaviour and stop instructions before the activity.
- A first aid kit, emergency contacts and a means of communication are available.
- Equipment/activity areas are visually checked before use and defects are removed from use or isolated.
- Individual medical, SEND, communication, sensory, behavioural and safeguarding needs are considered.
- Weather, ground, animal and environmental conditions are dynamically assessed where relevant.
- Incidents, near misses and significant concerns are recorded and used to review controls.

Hazard Assessment and Controls

Hazard	Possible Harm	Existing Controls	Further Actions / Monitoring
Moving road traffic	Collision causing serious injury	Use safest planned route and designated crossings where available; staff position themselves to supervise; group stops at kerb, looks/listens and crosses together on instruction; high visibility clothing considered where appropriate.	Ongoing monitoring. Record defects/incidents and review controls where needed.
Railway level crossing	Collision with train; fatal injury	Use authorised crossing only; obey lights, alarms, barriers and signs; never cross when warnings operate or barriers are closing/closed; group kept together; staff make final decision to cross; no distractions.	Ongoing monitoring. Record defects/incidents and review controls where needed.
Young person impulsivity, anxiety or absconding	Entry into traffic/railway danger area	Individual risk needs known; staffing increased where required; clear expectations before journey; close supervision and agreed safe waiting points; activity postponed if safe control cannot be maintained.	Ongoing monitoring. Record defects/incidents and review controls where needed.

Emergency / Stop Procedure

- Stop the activity and make the area safe.
- Provide first aid and call 999 where there is serious injury, breathing difficulty, suspected anaphylaxis, loss of consciousness or other emergency.
- Supervise remaining children and move them to a safe area.
- Inform parent/carer and relevant manager as soon as practicable.
- Record the incident/near miss and review this assessment and any individual plan before the activity resumes.

Residual Risk Rating

Low to Medium when the stated controls, suitable supervision and individual/dynamic risk assessment are in place. Some activities may remain Medium due to their inherent nature and must only proceed when staff judge the conditions and participant needs to be suitable.

Relevant UK Legal / Guidance Framework

- Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974
- Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999
- Workplace (Health, Safety and Welfare) Regulations 1992 where applicable
- Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations 1998 (PUWER) where work equipment is used
- Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 2002 (COSHH) where hazardous substances/biological agents are relevant
- Manual Handling Operations Regulations 1992 where manual handling is relevant
- Work at Height Regulations 2005 where work at height is relevant
- Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 2013 (RIDDOR) where reporting thresholds are met
- Food Safety Act 1990 and food hygiene/allergen requirements where food is prepared or supplied
- Current safeguarding, first-aid, fire-safety and organisational policies/procedures as applicable.

Monitoring and Review

Review annually and sooner after an accident, incident or near miss; a significant change to equipment, activity, site or participant needs; new guidance; or where controls are found to be ineffective.

Assessor	Samantha Wallace	Date	August 2026
Approver	Kara Dhyan	Date	August 2026

Risk Assessment: Duck Puddle

Organisation	Herd Thyme Alternative Provision
Location	Herd Thyme, Crofton, Wiltshire / relevant off-site location where separately approved
Assessment Date	August 2026
Review Date	August 2027
Assessor / Approver	Samantha Wallace / Kara Dhyan

Activity

Supervised participation in duck puddle as part of Herd Thyme Alternative Provision activities, adapted to the age, ability, needs and individual risk profile of each child or young person.

Persons at Risk

- Children and young people attending sessions
- Staff and volunteers
- Visitors and other persons who may be affected

Risk Assessment Statement

Herd Thyme Alternative Provision supports practical, outdoor and experiential learning while managing foreseeable risks so far as is reasonably practicable. Staff must use this assessment alongside individual information and a dynamic risk assessment before and during the activity. If safe control cannot be maintained, the activity must stop or be adapted.

Existing Control Measures

- Appropriate supervision and staff-to-child ratios are maintained.
- Staff explain boundaries, expected behaviour and stop instructions before the activity.
- A first aid kit, emergency contacts and a means of communication are available.
- Equipment/activity areas are visually checked before use and defects are removed from use or isolated.
- Individual medical, SEND, communication, sensory, behavioural and safeguarding needs are considered.
- Weather, ground, animal and environmental conditions are dynamically assessed where relevant.
- Incidents, near misses and significant concerns are recorded and used to review controls.

Hazard Assessment and Controls

Hazard	Possible Harm	Existing Controls	Further Actions / Monitoring
Standing water, mud and slippery banks	Slip, fall, immersion, cold exposure	Area visually checked; clear boundaries; direct supervision near water; suitable footwear; access restricted in deep water, ice, flooding or unstable ground.	Ongoing monitoring. Record defects/incidents and review controls where needed.
Contaminated water / animal faeces	Gastrointestinal or skin infection	No drinking or deliberate splashing of water; cuts covered; handwashing after activity and before eating; contact with faeces discouraged; contaminated clothing managed.	Ongoing monitoring. Record defects/incidents and review controls where needed.
Wildlife / nesting birds	Bites, scratches, distress to animals	Observe wildlife from a respectful distance; do not chase, feed or handle ducks unless specifically planned and safe; nesting areas protected.	Ongoing monitoring. Record defects/incidents and review controls where needed.

Emergency / Stop Procedure

- Stop the activity and make the area safe.
- Provide first aid and call 999 where there is serious injury, breathing difficulty, suspected anaphylaxis, loss of consciousness or other emergency.
- Supervise remaining children and move them to a safe area.
- Inform parent/carer and relevant manager as soon as practicable.
- Record the incident/near miss and review this assessment and any individual plan before the activity resumes.

Residual Risk Rating

Low to Medium when the stated controls, suitable supervision and individual/dynamic risk assessment are in place. Some activities may remain Medium due to their inherent nature and must only proceed when staff judge the conditions and participant needs to be suitable.

Relevant UK Legal / Guidance Framework

- Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974
- Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999
- Workplace (Health, Safety and Welfare) Regulations 1992 where applicable
- Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations 1998 (PUWER) where work equipment is used
- Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 2002 (COSHH) where hazardous substances/biological agents are relevant
- Manual Handling Operations Regulations 1992 where manual handling is relevant
- Work at Height Regulations 2005 where work at height is relevant
- Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 2013 (RIDDOR) where reporting thresholds are met
- Food Safety Act 1990 and food hygiene/allergen requirements where food is prepared or supplied
- Current safeguarding, first-aid, fire-safety and organisational policies/procedures as applicable.

Monitoring and Review

Review annually and sooner after an accident, incident or near miss; a significant change to equipment, activity, site or participant needs; new guidance; or where controls are found to be ineffective.

Assessor	Samantha Wallace	Date	August 2026
Approver	Kara Dhyan	Date	August 2026

Risk Assessment: Electric Fence

Organisation	Herd Thyme Alternative Provision
Location	Herd Thyme, Crofton, Wiltshire / relevant off-site location where separately approved
Assessment Date	August 2026
Review Date	August 2027
Assessor / Approver	Samantha Wallace / Kara Dhyan

Activity

Supervised participation in electric fence as part of Herd Thyme Alternative Provision activities, adapted to the age, ability, needs and individual risk profile of each child or young person.

Persons at Risk

- Children and young people attending sessions
- Staff and volunteers
- Visitors and other persons who may be affected

Risk Assessment Statement

Herd Thyme Alternative Provision supports practical, outdoor and experiential learning while managing foreseeable risks so far as is reasonably practicable. Staff must use this assessment alongside individual information and a dynamic risk assessment before and during the activity. If safe control cannot be maintained, the activity must stop or be adapted.

Existing Control Measures

- Appropriate supervision and staff-to-child ratios are maintained.
- Staff explain boundaries, expected behaviour and stop instructions before the activity.
- A first aid kit, emergency contacts and a means of communication are available.
- Equipment/activity areas are visually checked before use and defects are removed from use or isolated.
- Individual medical, SEND, communication, sensory, behavioural and safeguarding needs are considered.
- Weather, ground, animal and environmental conditions are dynamically assessed where relevant.
- Incidents, near misses and significant concerns are recorded and used to review controls.

Hazard Assessment and Controls

Hazard	Possible Harm	Existing Controls	Further Actions / Monitoring
Contact with energised fence	Electric shock, startle, secondary fall	Children shown fence location and boundaries; no touching, climbing or ducking under live fencing; direct supervision in nearby activities; warning signs/visibility maintained where appropriate.	Ongoing monitoring. Record defects/incidents and review controls where needed.
Damaged wire, posts or energiser	Cuts, entanglement, abnormal electrical hazard	Routine visual checks; defects isolated/reported and repaired by competent person; access restricted until safe; energiser installed/maintained to manufacturer instructions.	Ongoing monitoring. Record defects/incidents and review controls where needed.
Horses/livestock near fence	Crush/kick while avoiding fence or animal	Safe distance maintained; escape routes kept clear; participants instructed not to become trapped between animal and fence.	Ongoing monitoring. Record defects/incidents and review controls where needed.

Emergency / Stop Procedure

- Stop the activity and make the area safe.
- Provide first aid and call 999 where there is serious injury, breathing difficulty, suspected anaphylaxis, loss of consciousness or other emergency.
- Supervise remaining children and move them to a safe area.
- Inform parent/carer and relevant manager as soon as practicable.
- Record the incident/near miss and review this assessment and any individual plan before the activity resumes.

Residual Risk Rating

Low to Medium when the stated controls, suitable supervision and individual/dynamic risk assessment are in place. Some activities may remain Medium due to their inherent nature and must only proceed when staff judge the conditions and participant needs to be suitable.

Relevant UK Legal / Guidance Framework

- Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974
- Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999
- Workplace (Health, Safety and Welfare) Regulations 1992 where applicable
- Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations 1998 (PUWER) where work equipment is used
- Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 2002 (COSHH) where hazardous substances/biological agents are relevant
- Manual Handling Operations Regulations 1992 where manual handling is relevant
- Work at Height Regulations 2005 where work at height is relevant
- Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 2013 (RIDDOR) where reporting thresholds are met
- Food Safety Act 1990 and food hygiene/allergen requirements where food is prepared or supplied
- Current safeguarding, first-aid, fire-safety and organisational policies/procedures as applicable.

Monitoring and Review

Review annually and sooner after an accident, incident or near miss; a significant change to equipment, activity, site or participant needs; new guidance; or where controls are found to be ineffective.

Assessor	Samantha Wallace	Date	August 2026
Approver	Kara Dhyan	Date	August 2026

Risk Assessment: Equines, Goats, Sheep and Cows

Organisation	Herd Thyme Alternative Provision
Location	Herd Thyme, Crofton, Wiltshire / relevant off-site location where separately approved
Assessment Date	August 2026
Review Date	August 2027
Assessor / Approver	Samantha Wallace / Kara Dhyan

Activity

Supervised participation in equines, goats, sheep and cows as part of Herd Thyme Alternative Provision activities, adapted to the age, ability, needs and individual risk profile of each child or young person.

Persons at Risk

- Children and young people attending sessions
- Staff and volunteers
- Visitors and other persons who may be affected

Risk Assessment Statement

Herd Thyme Alternative Provision supports practical, outdoor and experiential learning while managing foreseeable risks so far as is reasonably practicable. Staff must use this assessment alongside individual information and a dynamic risk assessment before and during the activity. If safe control cannot be maintained, the activity must stop or be adapted.

Existing Control Measures

- Appropriate supervision and staff-to-child ratios are maintained.
- Staff explain boundaries, expected behaviour and stop instructions before the activity.
- A first aid kit, emergency contacts and a means of communication are available.
- Equipment/activity areas are visually checked before use and defects are removed from use or isolated.
- Individual medical, SEND, communication, sensory, behavioural and safeguarding needs are considered.
- Weather, ground, animal and environmental conditions are dynamically assessed where relevant.
- Incidents, near misses and significant concerns are recorded and used to review controls.

Hazard Assessment and Controls

Hazard	Possible Harm	Existing Controls	Further Actions / Monitoring
Unpredictable animal behaviour	Kick, bite, crush, trampling or head-butt injury	Only suitable animals used; competent staff supervise; participants taught calm approach, safe positions and escape routes; no entering enclosures without permission; animals showing distress/aggression are not used.	Ongoing monitoring. Record defects/incidents and review controls where needed.
Zoonoses, faeces and contaminated surfaces	Infection or illness	Handwashing after contact and before food; no eating in animal areas; cuts covered; manure handled with appropriate tools/PPE; pregnant or otherwise vulnerable persons considered individually.	Ongoing monitoring. Record defects/incidents and review controls where needed.
Feeding animals	Bites, crowding, choking risk to animals	Feeding only with staff permission using approved feed and method; safe spacing; no hand feeding where unsuitable; animal dietary restrictions followed.	Ongoing monitoring. Record defects/incidents and review controls where needed.

Emergency / Stop Procedure

- Stop the activity and make the area safe.
- Provide first aid and call 999 where there is serious injury, breathing difficulty, suspected anaphylaxis, loss of consciousness or other emergency.
- Supervise remaining children and move them to a safe area.
- Inform parent/carer and relevant manager as soon as practicable.
- Record the incident/near miss and review this assessment and any individual plan before the activity resumes.

Residual Risk Rating

Low to Medium when the stated controls, suitable supervision and individual/dynamic risk assessment are in place. Some activities may remain Medium due to their inherent nature and must only proceed when staff judge the conditions and participant needs to be suitable.

Relevant UK Legal / Guidance Framework

- Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974
- Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999
- Workplace (Health, Safety and Welfare) Regulations 1992 where applicable
- Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations 1998 (PUWER) where work equipment is used
- Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 2002 (COSHH) where hazardous substances/biological agents are relevant
- Manual Handling Operations Regulations 1992 where manual handling is relevant
- Work at Height Regulations 2005 where work at height is relevant
- Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 2013 (RIDDOR) where reporting thresholds are met
- Food Safety Act 1990 and food hygiene/allergen requirements where food is prepared or supplied
- Current safeguarding, first-aid, fire-safety and organisational policies/procedures as applicable.

Monitoring and Review

Review annually and sooner after an accident, incident or near miss; a significant change to equipment, activity, site or participant needs; new guidance; or where controls are found to be ineffective.

Assessor	Samantha Wallace	Date	August 2026
Approver	Kara Dhyan	Date	August 2026

Risk Assessment: Gas Stove

Organisation	Herd Thyme Alternative Provision
Location	Herd Thyme, Crofton, Wiltshire / relevant off-site location where separately approved
Assessment Date	August 2026
Review Date	August 2027
Assessor / Approver	Samantha Wallace / Kara Dhyan

Activity

Supervised participation in gas stove as part of Herd Thyme Alternative Provision activities, adapted to the age, ability, needs and individual risk profile of each child or young person.

Persons at Risk

- Children and young people attending sessions
- Staff and volunteers
- Visitors and other persons who may be affected

Risk Assessment Statement

Herd Thyme Alternative Provision supports practical, outdoor and experiential learning while managing foreseeable risks so far as is reasonably practicable. Staff must use this assessment alongside individual information and a dynamic risk assessment before and during the activity. If safe control cannot be maintained, the activity must stop or be adapted.

Existing Control Measures

- Appropriate supervision and staff-to-child ratios are maintained.
- Staff explain boundaries, expected behaviour and stop instructions before the activity.
- A first aid kit, emergency contacts and a means of communication are available.
- Equipment/activity areas are visually checked before use and defects are removed from use or isolated.
- Individual medical, SEND, communication, sensory, behavioural and safeguarding needs are considered.
- Weather, ground, animal and environmental conditions are dynamically assessed where relevant.
- Incidents, near misses and significant concerns are recorded and used to review controls.

Hazard Assessment and Controls

Hazard	Possible Harm	Existing Controls	Further Actions / Monitoring
Flame and hot surfaces	Burns, scalds, fire	Adult/competent staff control set-up and ignition; stable heat-resistant surface; combustibles kept away; pan handles positioned safely; children closely supervised; stove cools before storage.	Ongoing monitoring. Record defects/incidents and review controls where needed.
Gas leak / carbon monoxide	Fire, explosion, poisoning	Equipment and connections checked before use; cylinders/canisters stored and fitted to manufacturer instructions; use only in well-ventilated suitable location; stop use if smell/leak/damage suspected; no improvised repairs.	Ongoing monitoring. Record defects/incidents and review controls where needed.
Hot food/liquids	Scalding	Small manageable quantities; safe carrying routes; heatproof gloves/tools used; participants briefed and tasks matched to ability.	Ongoing monitoring. Record defects/incidents and review controls where needed.

Emergency / Stop Procedure

- Stop the activity and make the area safe.
- Provide first aid and call 999 where there is serious injury, breathing difficulty, suspected anaphylaxis, loss of consciousness or other emergency.
- Supervise remaining children and move them to a safe area.
- Inform parent/carer and relevant manager as soon as practicable.
- Record the incident/near miss and review this assessment and any individual plan before the activity resumes.

Residual Risk Rating

Low to Medium when the stated controls, suitable supervision and individual/dynamic risk assessment are in place. Some activities may remain Medium due to their inherent nature and must only proceed when staff judge the conditions and participant needs to be suitable.

Relevant UK Legal / Guidance Framework

- Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974
- Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999
- Workplace (Health, Safety and Welfare) Regulations 1992 where applicable
- Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations 1998 (PUWER) where work equipment is used
- Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 2002 (COSHH) where hazardous substances/biological agents are relevant
- Manual Handling Operations Regulations 1992 where manual handling is relevant
- Work at Height Regulations 2005 where work at height is relevant
- Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 2013 (RIDDOR) where reporting thresholds are met
- Food Safety Act 1990 and food hygiene/allergen requirements where food is prepared or supplied
- Current safeguarding, first-aid, fire-safety and organisational policies/procedures as applicable.

Monitoring and Review

Review annually and sooner after an accident, incident or near miss; a significant change to equipment, activity, site or participant needs; new guidance; or where controls are found to be ineffective.

Assessor	Samantha Wallace	Date	August 2026
Approver	Kara Dhyan	Date	August 2026

Risk Assessment: Glue Gun

Organisation	Herd Thyme Alternative Provision
Location	Herd Thyme, Crofton, Wiltshire / relevant off-site location where separately approved
Assessment Date	August 2026
Review Date	August 2027
Assessor / Approver	Samantha Wallace / Kara Dhyan

Activity

Supervised participation in glue gun as part of Herd Thyme Alternative Provision activities, adapted to the age, ability, needs and individual risk profile of each child or young person.

Persons at Risk

- Children and young people attending sessions
- Staff and volunteers
- Visitors and other persons who may be affected

Risk Assessment Statement

Herd Thyme Alternative Provision supports practical, outdoor and experiential learning while managing foreseeable risks so far as is reasonably practicable. Staff must use this assessment alongside individual information and a dynamic risk assessment before and during the activity. If safe control cannot be maintained, the activity must stop or be adapted.

Existing Control Measures

- Appropriate supervision and staff-to-child ratios are maintained.
- Staff explain boundaries, expected behaviour and stop instructions before the activity.
- A first aid kit, emergency contacts and a means of communication are available.
- Equipment/activity areas are visually checked before use and defects are removed from use or isolated.
- Individual medical, SEND, communication, sensory, behavioural and safeguarding needs are considered.
- Weather, ground, animal and environmental conditions are dynamically assessed where relevant.
- Incidents, near misses and significant concerns are recorded and used to review controls.

Hazard Assessment and Controls

Hazard	Possible Harm	Existing Controls	Further Actions / Monitoring
Hot nozzle and molten glue	Burns and blistering	Low-temperature glue gun preferred for learners; heatproof stand/mat; direct supervision; nozzle not touched; work positioned to avoid reaching across gun; first aid available.	Ongoing monitoring. Record defects/incidents and review controls where needed.
Electrical equipment	Electric shock or fire	Cable/plug visually checked; damaged equipment removed; keep away from water; switch off/unplug after use; PAT/maintenance arrangements appropriate to use.	Ongoing monitoring. Record defects/incidents and review controls where needed.
Fumes/material sensitivity	Irritation or allergic reaction	Use compatible glue sticks in ventilated area; follow manufacturer information; stop if irritation occurs; hand hygiene after use.	Ongoing monitoring. Record defects/incidents and review controls where needed.

Emergency / Stop Procedure

- Stop the activity and make the area safe.
- Provide first aid and call 999 where there is serious injury, breathing difficulty, suspected anaphylaxis, loss of consciousness or other emergency.
- Supervise remaining children and move them to a safe area.
- Inform parent/carer and relevant manager as soon as practicable.
- Record the incident/near miss and review this assessment and any individual plan before the activity resumes.

Residual Risk Rating

Low to Medium when the stated controls, suitable supervision and individual/dynamic risk assessment are in place. Some activities may remain Medium due to their inherent nature and must only proceed when staff judge the conditions and participant needs to be suitable.

Relevant UK Legal / Guidance Framework

- Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974
- Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999
- Workplace (Health, Safety and Welfare) Regulations 1992 where applicable
- Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations 1998 (PUWER) where work equipment is used
- Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 2002 (COSHH) where hazardous substances/biological agents are relevant
- Manual Handling Operations Regulations 1992 where manual handling is relevant
- Work at Height Regulations 2005 where work at height is relevant
- Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 2013 (RIDDOR) where reporting thresholds are met
- Food Safety Act 1990 and food hygiene/allergen requirements where food is prepared or supplied
- Current safeguarding, first-aid, fire-safety and organisational policies/procedures as applicable.

Monitoring and Review

Review annually and sooner after an accident, incident or near miss; a significant change to equipment, activity, site or participant needs; new guidance; or where controls are found to be ineffective.

Assessor	Samantha Wallace	Date	August 2026
Approver	Kara Dhyan	Date	August 2026

Risk Assessment: Horse and Goat Cart

Organisation	Herd Thyme Alternative Provision
Location	Herd Thyme, Crofton, Wiltshire / relevant off-site location where separately approved
Assessment Date	August 2026
Review Date	August 2027
Assessor / Approver	Samantha Wallace / Kara Dhyan

Activity

Supervised participation in horse and goat cart as part of Herd Thyme Alternative Provision activities, adapted to the age, ability, needs and individual risk profile of each child or young person.

Persons at Risk

- Children and young people attending sessions
- Staff and volunteers
- Visitors and other persons who may be affected

Risk Assessment Statement

Herd Thyme Alternative Provision supports practical, outdoor and experiential learning while managing foreseeable risks so far as is reasonably practicable. Staff must use this assessment alongside individual information and a dynamic risk assessment before and during the activity. If safe control cannot be maintained, the activity must stop or be adapted.

Existing Control Measures

- Appropriate supervision and staff-to-child ratios are maintained.
- Staff explain boundaries, expected behaviour and stop instructions before the activity.
- A first aid kit, emergency contacts and a means of communication are available.
- Equipment/activity areas are visually checked before use and defects are removed from use or isolated.
- Individual medical, SEND, communication, sensory, behavioural and safeguarding needs are considered.
- Weather, ground, animal and environmental conditions are dynamically assessed where relevant.
- Incidents, near misses and significant concerns are recorded and used to review controls.

Hazard Assessment and Controls

Hazard	Possible Harm	Existing Controls	Further Actions / Monitoring
Moving cart / loss of control	Fall, crush, collision	Only suitable trained animal, harness and cart used; competent driver/handler; pre-use checks; safe enclosed route/area; speed kept appropriate; passengers seated and supervised; no mounting/dismounting while moving.	Ongoing monitoring. Record defects/incidents and review controls where needed.
Harness or cart failure	Animal distress, collision or injury	Harness, shafts, wheels, brakes and fixings checked before use and maintained; defects remove equipment from service; correct fit confirmed.	Ongoing monitoring. Record defects/incidents and review controls where needed.
Traffic, terrain or obstacles	Overturning, collision	Route assessed for slopes, holes, mud, gates and other users; avoid public road use unless separately assessed and legally compliant; activity cancelled in unsuitable ground/weather.	Ongoing monitoring. Record defects/incidents and review controls where needed.

Emergency / Stop Procedure

- Stop the activity and make the area safe.
- Provide first aid and call 999 where there is serious injury, breathing difficulty, suspected anaphylaxis, loss of consciousness or other emergency.
- Supervise remaining children and move them to a safe area.
- Inform parent/carer and relevant manager as soon as practicable.
- Record the incident/near miss and review this assessment and any individual plan before the activity resumes.

Residual Risk Rating

Low to Medium when the stated controls, suitable supervision and individual/dynamic risk assessment are in place. Some activities may remain Medium due to their inherent nature and must only proceed when staff judge the conditions and participant needs to be suitable.

Relevant UK Legal / Guidance Framework

- Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974
- Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999
- Workplace (Health, Safety and Welfare) Regulations 1992 where applicable
- Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations 1998 (PUWER) where work equipment is used
- Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 2002 (COSHH) where hazardous substances/biological agents are relevant
- Manual Handling Operations Regulations 1992 where manual handling is relevant
- Work at Height Regulations 2005 where work at height is relevant
- Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 2013 (RIDDOR) where reporting thresholds are met
- Food Safety Act 1990 and food hygiene/allergen requirements where food is prepared or supplied
- Current safeguarding, first-aid, fire-safety and organisational policies/procedures as applicable.

Monitoring and Review

Review annually and sooner after an accident, incident or near miss; a significant change to equipment, activity, site or participant needs; new guidance; or where controls are found to be ineffective.

Assessor	Samantha Wallace	Date	August 2026
Approver	Kara Dhyan	Date	August 2026

Risk Assessment: Keeping safe around horses in a field and yard

Organisation	Herd Thyme Alternative Provision
Location	Herd Thyme, Crofton, Wiltshire / relevant off-site location where separately approved
Assessment Date	August 2026
Review Date	August 2027
Assessor / Approver	Samantha Wallace / Kara Dhyan

Activity

Supervised participation in keeping safe around horses in a field and yard as part of Herd Thyme Alternative Provision activities, adapted to the age, ability, needs and individual risk profile of each child or young person.

Persons at Risk

- Children and young people attending sessions
- Staff and volunteers
- Visitors and other persons who may be affected

Risk Assessment Statement

Herd Thyme Alternative Provision supports practical, outdoor and experiential learning while managing foreseeable risks so far as is reasonably practicable. Staff must use this assessment alongside individual information and a dynamic risk assessment before and during the activity. If safe control cannot be maintained, the activity must stop or be adapted.

Existing Control Measures

- Appropriate supervision and staff-to-child ratios are maintained.
- Staff explain boundaries, expected behaviour and stop instructions before the activity.
- A first aid kit, emergency contacts and a means of communication are available.
- Equipment/activity areas are visually checked before use and defects are removed from use or isolated.
- Individual medical, SEND, communication, sensory, behavioural and safeguarding needs are considered.
- Weather, ground, animal and environmental conditions are dynamically assessed where relevant.
- Incidents, near misses and significant concerns are recorded and used to review controls.

Hazard Assessment and Controls

Hazard	Possible Harm	Existing Controls	Further Actions / Monitoring
Loose/tied horses and herd movement	Kick, bite, crush, trampling	Safety briefing; calm behaviour; no running/shouting; maintain safe distance; never walk directly behind horse; safe escape route; staff control access and animal movement.	Ongoing monitoring. Record defects/incidents and review controls where needed.
Gates, doors and confined spaces	Trapping or crush injury	Gates secured; participants do not stand in gateways; one controlled movement at a time; fingers kept clear of hinges/latches; no person trapped between horse and fixed object.	Ongoing monitoring. Record defects/incidents and review controls where needed.
Feed and equipment	Crowding, trips	Feed stored securely; no unauthorised feeding; tools/tack stored safely; walkways kept clear.	Ongoing monitoring. Record defects/incidents and review controls where needed.

Emergency / Stop Procedure

- Stop the activity and make the area safe.
- Provide first aid and call 999 where there is serious injury, breathing difficulty, suspected anaphylaxis, loss of consciousness or other emergency.
- Supervise remaining children and move them to a safe area.
- Inform parent/carer and relevant manager as soon as practicable.
- Record the incident/near miss and review this assessment and any individual plan before the activity resumes.

Residual Risk Rating

Low to Medium when the stated controls, suitable supervision and individual/dynamic risk assessment are in place. Some activities may remain Medium due to their inherent nature and must only proceed when staff judge the conditions and participant needs to be suitable.

Relevant UK Legal / Guidance Framework

- Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974
- Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999
- Workplace (Health, Safety and Welfare) Regulations 1992 where applicable
- Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations 1998 (PUWER) where work equipment is used
- Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 2002 (COSHH) where hazardous substances/biological agents are relevant
- Manual Handling Operations Regulations 1992 where manual handling is relevant
- Work at Height Regulations 2005 where work at height is relevant
- Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 2013 (RIDDOR) where reporting thresholds are met
- Food Safety Act 1990 and food hygiene/allergen requirements where food is prepared or supplied
- Current safeguarding, first-aid, fire-safety and organisational policies/procedures as applicable.

Monitoring and Review

Review annually and sooner after an accident, incident or near miss; a significant change to equipment, activity, site or participant needs; new guidance; or where controls are found to be ineffective.

Assessor	Samantha Wallace	Date	August 2026
Approver	Kara Dhyan	Date	August 2026

Risk Assessment: Kitchen and Cooking

Organisation	Herd Thyme Alternative Provision
Location	Herd Thyme, Crofton, Wiltshire / relevant off-site location where separately approved
Assessment Date	August 2026
Review Date	August 2027
Assessor / Approver	Samantha Wallace / Kara Dhyan

Activity

Supervised participation in kitchen and cooking as part of Herd Thyme Alternative Provision activities, adapted to the age, ability, needs and individual risk profile of each child or young person.

Persons at Risk

- Children and young people attending sessions
- Staff and volunteers
- Visitors and other persons who may be affected

Risk Assessment Statement

Herd Thyme Alternative Provision supports practical, outdoor and experiential learning while managing foreseeable risks so far as is reasonably practicable. Staff must use this assessment alongside individual information and a dynamic risk assessment before and during the activity. If safe control cannot be maintained, the activity must stop or be adapted.

Existing Control Measures

- Appropriate supervision and staff-to-child ratios are maintained.
- Staff explain boundaries, expected behaviour and stop instructions before the activity.
- A first aid kit, emergency contacts and a means of communication are available.
- Equipment/activity areas are visually checked before use and defects are removed from use or isolated.
- Individual medical, SEND, communication, sensory, behavioural and safeguarding needs are considered.
- Weather, ground, animal and environmental conditions are dynamically assessed where relevant.
- Incidents, near misses and significant concerns are recorded and used to review controls.

Hazard Assessment and Controls

Hazard	Possible Harm	Existing Controls	Further Actions / Monitoring
Knives, graters and sharp equipment	Cuts/lacerations	Tasks matched to competence; close supervision; safe cutting technique and stable boards; appropriate knives; sharp equipment stored securely when not in use.	Ongoing monitoring. Record defects/incidents and review controls where needed.
Hot ovens, hobs, pans, liquids	Burns, scalds, fire	Heat hazards explained; oven gloves and suitable utensils; handles turned in; safe zones around cooking equipment; staff supervise use; fire safety equipment/procedures available.	Ongoing monitoring. Record defects/incidents and review controls where needed.
Food hygiene and allergens	Food poisoning or allergic reaction	Current allergen information checked; handwashing; clean surfaces/equipment; prevent cross-contamination; food stored/cooked/chilled appropriately; ingredient labels retained where needed; individual allergy plans followed.	Ongoing monitoring. Record defects/incidents and review controls where needed.

Emergency / Stop Procedure

- Stop the activity and make the area safe.
- Provide first aid and call 999 where there is serious injury, breathing difficulty, suspected anaphylaxis, loss of consciousness or other emergency.
- Supervise remaining children and move them to a safe area.
- Inform parent/carer and relevant manager as soon as practicable.
- Record the incident/near miss and review this assessment and any individual plan before the activity resumes.

Residual Risk Rating

Low to Medium when the stated controls, suitable supervision and individual/dynamic risk assessment are in place. Some activities may remain Medium due to their inherent nature and must only proceed when staff judge the conditions and participant needs to be suitable.

Relevant UK Legal / Guidance Framework

- Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974
- Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999
- Workplace (Health, Safety and Welfare) Regulations 1992 where applicable
- Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations 1998 (PUWER) where work equipment is used
- Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 2002 (COSHH) where hazardous substances/biological agents are relevant
- Manual Handling Operations Regulations 1992 where manual handling is relevant
- Work at Height Regulations 2005 where work at height is relevant
- Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 2013 (RIDDOR) where reporting thresholds are met
- Food Safety Act 1990 and food hygiene/allergen requirements where food is prepared or supplied
- Current safeguarding, first-aid, fire-safety and organisational policies/procedures as applicable.

Monitoring and Review

Review annually and sooner after an accident, incident or near miss; a significant change to equipment, activity, site or participant needs; new guidance; or where controls are found to be ineffective.

Assessor	Samantha Wallace	Date	August 2026
Approver	Kara Dhyan	Date	August 2026

Risk Assessment: Knife Policy

Organisation	Herd Thyme Alternative Provision
Location	Herd Thyme, Crofton, Wiltshire / relevant off-site location where separately approved
Assessment Date	August 2026
Review Date	August 2027
Assessor / Approver	Samantha Wallace / Kara Dhyan

Activity

Supervised participation in knife policy as part of Herd Thyme Alternative Provision activities, adapted to the age, ability, needs and individual risk profile of each child or young person.

Persons at Risk

- Children and young people attending sessions
- Staff and volunteers
- Visitors and other persons who may be affected

Risk Assessment Statement

Herd Thyme Alternative Provision supports practical, outdoor and experiential learning while managing foreseeable risks so far as is reasonably practicable. Staff must use this assessment alongside individual information and a dynamic risk assessment before and during the activity. If safe control cannot be maintained, the activity must stop or be adapted.

Existing Control Measures

- Appropriate supervision and staff-to-child ratios are maintained.
- Staff explain boundaries, expected behaviour and stop instructions before the activity.
- A first aid kit, emergency contacts and a means of communication are available.
- Equipment/activity areas are visually checked before use and defects are removed from use or isolated.
- Individual medical, SEND, communication, sensory, behavioural and safeguarding needs are considered.
- Weather, ground, animal and environmental conditions are dynamically assessed where relevant.
- Incidents, near misses and significant concerns are recorded and used to review controls.

Hazard Assessment and Controls

Hazard	Possible Harm	Existing Controls	Further Actions / Monitoring
Use of knives for cooking, craft or outdoor tasks	Cuts, puncture wounds or misuse	Knife use is planned, purposeful and age/ability appropriate; staff authorise and directly supervise; correct tool and safe technique taught; cutting away from body on stable surface; safe spacing.	Ongoing monitoring. Record defects/incidents and review controls where needed.
Unauthorised access or intentional misuse	Serious injury or safeguarding incident	Knives counted/controlled and stored securely when not in supervised use; never left unattended; individual behaviour/risk information considered before access; activity stopped and safeguarding/behaviour procedures followed if concerns arise.	Ongoing monitoring. Record defects/incidents and review controls where needed.
Transport/cleaning/storage	Cuts to user or others	Carry safely as instructed; clean one at a time with blade visible and controlled; store dry in designated secure location; damaged knives removed.	Ongoing monitoring. Record defects/incidents and review controls where needed.

Emergency / Stop Procedure

- Stop the activity and make the area safe.
- Provide first aid and call 999 where there is serious injury, breathing difficulty, suspected anaphylaxis, loss of consciousness or other emergency.
- Supervise remaining children and move them to a safe area.
- Inform parent/carer and relevant manager as soon as practicable.
- Record the incident/near miss and review this assessment and any individual plan before the activity resumes.

Residual Risk Rating

Low to Medium when the stated controls, suitable supervision and individual/dynamic risk assessment are in place. Some activities may remain Medium due to their inherent nature and must only proceed when staff judge the conditions and participant needs to be suitable.

Relevant UK Legal / Guidance Framework

- Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974
- Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999
- Workplace (Health, Safety and Welfare) Regulations 1992 where applicable
- Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations 1998 (PUWER) where work equipment is used
- Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 2002 (COSHH) where hazardous substances/biological agents are relevant
- Manual Handling Operations Regulations 1992 where manual handling is relevant
- Work at Height Regulations 2005 where work at height is relevant
- Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 2013 (RIDDOR) where reporting thresholds are met
- Food Safety Act 1990 and food hygiene/allergen requirements where food is prepared or supplied
- Current safeguarding, first-aid, fire-safety and organisational policies/procedures as applicable.

Monitoring and Review

Review annually and sooner after an accident, incident or near miss; a significant change to equipment, activity, site or participant needs; new guidance; or where controls are found to be ineffective.

Assessor	Samantha Wallace	Date	August 2026
Approver	Kara Dhyan	Date	August 2026

Risk Assessment: Leading a Horse

Organisation	Herd Thyme Alternative Provision
Location	Herd Thyme, Crofton, Wiltshire / relevant off-site location where separately approved
Assessment Date	August 2026
Review Date	August 2027
Assessor / Approver	Samantha Wallace / Kara Dhyan

Activity

Supervised participation in leading a horse as part of Herd Thyme Alternative Provision activities, adapted to the age, ability, needs and individual risk profile of each child or young person.

Persons at Risk

- Children and young people attending sessions
- Staff and volunteers
- Visitors and other persons who may be affected

Risk Assessment Statement

Herd Thyme Alternative Provision supports practical, outdoor and experiential learning while managing foreseeable risks so far as is reasonably practicable. Staff must use this assessment alongside individual information and a dynamic risk assessment before and during the activity. If safe control cannot be maintained, the activity must stop or be adapted.

Existing Control Measures

- Appropriate supervision and staff-to-child ratios are maintained.
- Staff explain boundaries, expected behaviour and stop instructions before the activity.
- A first aid kit, emergency contacts and a means of communication are available.
- Equipment/activity areas are visually checked before use and defects are removed from use or isolated.
- Individual medical, SEND, communication, sensory, behavioural and safeguarding needs are considered.
- Weather, ground, animal and environmental conditions are dynamically assessed where relevant.
- Incidents, near misses and significant concerns are recorded and used to review controls.

Hazard Assessment and Controls

Hazard	Possible Harm	Existing Controls	Further Actions / Monitoring
Horse pulls, barges, spooks or steps on handler	Falls, crush, foot/hand injury	Suitable horse and correctly fitted headcollar/lead rope; competent staff teach position and technique; gloves/robust footwear considered; lead rope never wrapped around hand; safe route and spacing.	Ongoing monitoring. Record defects/incidents and review controls where needed.
Passing gates/other horses	Crush, kick, escape	Gates prepared before movement; one horse at a time where appropriate; maintain distance; staff manage interactions; never stand between horse and fixed object.	Ongoing monitoring. Record defects/incidents and review controls where needed.
Participant ability/anxiety	Loss of control or distress	Individual suitability assessed; staff take over immediately if control reduces; short supported tasks; no leading in unsafe weather or ground conditions.	Ongoing monitoring. Record defects/incidents and review controls where needed.

Emergency / Stop Procedure

- Stop the activity and make the area safe.
- Provide first aid and call 999 where there is serious injury, breathing difficulty, suspected anaphylaxis, loss of consciousness or other emergency.
- Supervise remaining children and move them to a safe area.
- Inform parent/carer and relevant manager as soon as practicable.
- Record the incident/near miss and review this assessment and any individual plan before the activity resumes.

Residual Risk Rating

Low to Medium when the stated controls, suitable supervision and individual/dynamic risk assessment are in place. Some activities may remain Medium due to their inherent nature and must only proceed when staff judge the conditions and participant needs to be suitable.

Relevant UK Legal / Guidance Framework

- Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974
- Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999
- Workplace (Health, Safety and Welfare) Regulations 1992 where applicable
- Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations 1998 (PUWER) where work equipment is used
- Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 2002 (COSHH) where hazardous substances/biological agents are relevant
- Manual Handling Operations Regulations 1992 where manual handling is relevant
- Work at Height Regulations 2005 where work at height is relevant
- Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 2013 (RIDDOR) where reporting thresholds are met
- Food Safety Act 1990 and food hygiene/allergen requirements where food is prepared or supplied
- Current safeguarding, first-aid, fire-safety and organisational policies/procedures as applicable.

Monitoring and Review

Review annually and sooner after an accident, incident or near miss; a significant change to equipment, activity, site or participant needs; new guidance; or where controls are found to be ineffective.

Assessor	Samantha Wallace	Date	August 2026
Approver	Kara Dhyan	Date	August 2026

Risk Assessment: Lone Working

Organisation	Herd Thyme Alternative Provision
Location	Herd Thyme, Crofton, Wiltshire / relevant off-site location where separately approved
Assessment Date	August 2026
Review Date	August 2027
Assessor / Approver	Samantha Wallace / Kara Dhyan

Activity

Supervised participation in lone working as part of Herd Thyme Alternative Provision activities, adapted to the age, ability, needs and individual risk profile of each child or young person.

Persons at Risk

- Children and young people attending sessions
- Staff and volunteers
- Visitors and other persons who may be affected

Risk Assessment Statement

Herd Thyme Alternative Provision supports practical, outdoor and experiential learning while managing foreseeable risks so far as is reasonably practicable. Staff must use this assessment alongside individual information and a dynamic risk assessment before and during the activity. If safe control cannot be maintained, the activity must stop or be adapted.

Existing Control Measures

- Appropriate supervision and staff-to-child ratios are maintained.
- Staff explain boundaries, expected behaviour and stop instructions before the activity.
- A first aid kit, emergency contacts and a means of communication are available.
- Equipment/activity areas are visually checked before use and defects are removed from use or isolated.
- Individual medical, SEND, communication, sensory, behavioural and safeguarding needs are considered.
- Weather, ground, animal and environmental conditions are dynamically assessed where relevant.
- Incidents, near misses and significant concerns are recorded and used to review controls.

Hazard Assessment and Controls

Hazard	Possible Harm	Existing Controls	Further Actions / Monitoring
Medical emergency, accident or violence with no immediate assistance	Delayed help, serious harm	Lone working limited to suitable tasks; manager knows location/task and expected finish; reliable phone carried; check-in/out procedure; emergency contacts available; no lone work for activities requiring two people.	Ongoing monitoring. Record defects/incidents and review controls where needed.
Animals, machinery, remote outdoor areas	Injury without assistance	Higher-risk animal handling, work at height, open fire and similar tasks not undertaken alone unless specifically assessed and controlled; dynamic assessment before starting.	Ongoing monitoring. Record defects/incidents and review controls where needed.
Safeguarding / allegation risk	Risk to child or staff	Staff do not place themselves in avoidable one-to-one isolated situations with children; safeguarding and professional-boundary procedures followed; doors/locations/communication arranged to maintain appropriate visibility and accountability.	Ongoing monitoring. Record defects/incidents and review controls where needed.

Emergency / Stop Procedure

- Stop the activity and make the area safe.
- Provide first aid and call 999 where there is serious injury, breathing difficulty, suspected anaphylaxis, loss of consciousness or other emergency.
- Supervise remaining children and move them to a safe area.
- Inform parent/carer and relevant manager as soon as practicable.
- Record the incident/near miss and review this assessment and any individual plan before the activity resumes.

Residual Risk Rating

Low to Medium when the stated controls, suitable supervision and individual/dynamic risk assessment are in place. Some activities may remain Medium due to their inherent nature and must only proceed when staff judge the conditions and participant needs to be suitable.

Relevant UK Legal / Guidance Framework

- Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974
- Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999
- Workplace (Health, Safety and Welfare) Regulations 1992 where applicable
- Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations 1998 (PUWER) where work equipment is used
- Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 2002 (COSHH) where hazardous substances/biological agents are relevant
- Manual Handling Operations Regulations 1992 where manual handling is relevant
- Work at Height Regulations 2005 where work at height is relevant
- Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 2013 (RIDDOR) where reporting thresholds are met
- Food Safety Act 1990 and food hygiene/allergen requirements where food is prepared or supplied
- Current safeguarding, first-aid, fire-safety and organisational policies/procedures as applicable.

Monitoring and Review

Review annually and sooner after an accident, incident or near miss; a significant change to equipment, activity, site or participant needs; new guidance; or where controls are found to be ineffective.

Assessor	Samantha Wallace	Date	August 2026
Approver	Kara Dhyan	Date	August 2026

Risk Assessment: Making a controlled open campfire in Woodland

Organisation	Herd Thyme Alternative Provision
Location	Herd Thyme, Crofton, Wiltshire / relevant off-site location where separately approved
Assessment Date	August 2026
Review Date	August 2027
Assessor / Approver	Samantha Wallace / Kara Dhyan

Activity

Supervised participation in making a controlled open campfire in woodland as part of Herd Thyme Alternative Provision activities, adapted to the age, ability, needs and individual risk profile of each child or young person.

Persons at Risk

- Children and young people attending sessions
- Staff and volunteers
- Visitors and other persons who may be affected

Risk Assessment Statement

Herd Thyme Alternative Provision supports practical, outdoor and experiential learning while managing foreseeable risks so far as is reasonably practicable. Staff must use this assessment alongside individual information and a dynamic risk assessment before and during the activity. If safe control cannot be maintained, the activity must stop or be adapted.

Existing Control Measures

- Appropriate supervision and staff-to-child ratios are maintained.
- Staff explain boundaries, expected behaviour and stop instructions before the activity.
- A first aid kit, emergency contacts and a means of communication are available.
- Equipment/activity areas are visually checked before use and defects are removed from use or isolated.
- Individual medical, SEND, communication, sensory, behavioural and safeguarding needs are considered.
- Weather, ground, animal and environmental conditions are dynamically assessed where relevant.
- Incidents, near misses and significant concerns are recorded and used to review controls.

Hazard Assessment and Controls

Hazard	Possible Harm	Existing Controls	Further Actions / Monitoring
Open flame, sparks and hot embers	Burns, clothing ignition, wildfire	Designated fire site on cleared non-combustible base; competent adult leads; fire kept small; safe seating/exclusion boundary; hair/clothing secured; no running; water/extinguishing means immediately available.	Ongoing monitoring. Record defects/incidents and review controls where needed.
Smoke and combustion products	Respiratory irritation / smoke inhalation	Consider asthma/medical needs and wind direction; use dry suitable fuel only; never burn treated/painted wood, plastics or waste; move people away if smoke affects them.	Ongoing monitoring. Record defects/incidents and review controls where needed.
Spread of fire / weather	Wildfire or property damage	Check weather and site conditions; no fire during high winds, extreme dryness or local restrictions; fire never left unattended; fully extinguish, cool and check before leaving.	Ongoing monitoring. Record defects/incidents and review controls where needed.

Emergency / Stop Procedure

- Stop the activity and make the area safe.
- Provide first aid and call 999 where there is serious injury, breathing difficulty, suspected anaphylaxis, loss of consciousness or other emergency.
- Supervise remaining children and move them to a safe area.
- Inform parent/carer and relevant manager as soon as practicable.
- Record the incident/near miss and review this assessment and any individual plan before the activity resumes.

Residual Risk Rating

Low to Medium when the stated controls, suitable supervision and individual/dynamic risk assessment are in place. Some activities may remain Medium due to their inherent nature and must only proceed when staff judge the conditions and participant needs to be suitable.

Relevant UK Legal / Guidance Framework

- Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974
- Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999
- Workplace (Health, Safety and Welfare) Regulations 1992 where applicable
- Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations 1998 (PUWER) where work equipment is used
- Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 2002 (COSHH) where hazardous substances/biological agents are relevant
- Manual Handling Operations Regulations 1992 where manual handling is relevant
- Work at Height Regulations 2005 where work at height is relevant
- Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 2013 (RIDDOR) where reporting thresholds are met
- Food Safety Act 1990 and food hygiene/allergen requirements where food is prepared or supplied
- Current safeguarding, first-aid, fire-safety and organisational policies/procedures as applicable.

Monitoring and Review

Review annually and sooner after an accident, incident or near miss; a significant change to equipment, activity, site or participant needs; new guidance; or where controls are found to be ineffective.

Assessor	Samantha Wallace	Date	August 2026
Approver	Kara Dhyan	Date	August 2026

Risk Assessment: Manual Handling

Organisation	Herd Thyme Alternative Provision
Location	Herd Thyme, Crofton, Wiltshire / relevant off-site location where separately approved
Assessment Date	August 2026
Review Date	August 2027
Assessor / Approver	Samantha Wallace / Kara Dhyan

Activity

Supervised participation in manual handling as part of Herd Thyme Alternative Provision activities, adapted to the age, ability, needs and individual risk profile of each child or young person.

Persons at Risk

- Children and young people attending sessions
- Staff and volunteers
- Visitors and other persons who may be affected

Risk Assessment Statement

Herd Thyme Alternative Provision supports practical, outdoor and experiential learning while managing foreseeable risks so far as is reasonably practicable. Staff must use this assessment alongside individual information and a dynamic risk assessment before and during the activity. If safe control cannot be maintained, the activity must stop or be adapted.

Existing Control Measures

- Appropriate supervision and staff-to-child ratios are maintained.
- Staff explain boundaries, expected behaviour and stop instructions before the activity.
- A first aid kit, emergency contacts and a means of communication are available.
- Equipment/activity areas are visually checked before use and defects are removed from use or isolated.
- Individual medical, SEND, communication, sensory, behavioural and safeguarding needs are considered.
- Weather, ground, animal and environmental conditions are dynamically assessed where relevant.
- Incidents, near misses and significant concerns are recorded and used to review controls.

Hazard Assessment and Controls

Hazard	Possible Harm	Existing Controls	Further Actions / Monitoring
Lifting/carrying/pushing/pulling loads	Strains, sprains, back or crush injuries	Avoid hazardous handling where practicable; assess task, load, individual and environment; reduce load/use aids/team handling; teach safe technique; children only handle suitable light/manageable items under supervision.	Ongoing monitoring. Record defects/incidents and review controls where needed.
Awkward/bulky loads	Dropped load, trapped fingers/toes	Plan route and destination; secure grip; keep route clear; use suitable footwear/gloves where needed; staff handle loads beyond participant ability.	Ongoing monitoring. Record defects/incidents and review controls where needed.
Repetitive tasks	Musculoskeletal discomfort	Vary tasks, allow breaks, adjust height/layout and stop if pain or fatigue occurs.	Ongoing monitoring. Record defects/incidents and review controls where needed.

Emergency / Stop Procedure

- Stop the activity and make the area safe.
- Provide first aid and call 999 where there is serious injury, breathing difficulty, suspected anaphylaxis, loss of consciousness or other emergency.
- Supervise remaining children and move them to a safe area.
- Inform parent/carer and relevant manager as soon as practicable.
- Record the incident/near miss and review this assessment and any individual plan before the activity resumes.

Residual Risk Rating

Low to Medium when the stated controls, suitable supervision and individual/dynamic risk assessment are in place. Some activities may remain Medium due to their inherent nature and must only proceed when staff judge the conditions and participant needs to be suitable.

Relevant UK Legal / Guidance Framework

- Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974
- Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999
- Workplace (Health, Safety and Welfare) Regulations 1992 where applicable
- Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations 1998 (PUWER) where work equipment is used
- Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 2002 (COSHH) where hazardous substances/biological agents are relevant
- Manual Handling Operations Regulations 1992 where manual handling is relevant
- Work at Height Regulations 2005 where work at height is relevant
- Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 2013 (RIDDOR) where reporting thresholds are met
- Food Safety Act 1990 and food hygiene/allergen requirements where food is prepared or supplied
- Current safeguarding, first-aid, fire-safety and organisational policies/procedures as applicable.

Monitoring and Review

Review annually and sooner after an accident, incident or near miss; a significant change to equipment, activity, site or participant needs; new guidance; or where controls are found to be ineffective.

Assessor	Samantha Wallace	Date	August 2026
Approver	Kara Dhyan	Date	August 2026

Risk Assessment: Muck Heap

Organisation	Herd Thyme Alternative Provision
Location	Herd Thyme, Crofton, Wiltshire / relevant off-site location where separately approved
Assessment Date	August 2026
Review Date	August 2027
Assessor / Approver	Samantha Wallace / Kara Dhyan

Activity

Supervised participation in muck heap as part of Herd Thyme Alternative Provision activities, adapted to the age, ability, needs and individual risk profile of each child or young person.

Persons at Risk

- Children and young people attending sessions
- Staff and volunteers
- Visitors and other persons who may be affected

Risk Assessment Statement

Herd Thyme Alternative Provision supports practical, outdoor and experiential learning while managing foreseeable risks so far as is reasonably practicable. Staff must use this assessment alongside individual information and a dynamic risk assessment before and during the activity. If safe control cannot be maintained, the activity must stop or be adapted.

Existing Control Measures

- Appropriate supervision and staff-to-child ratios are maintained.
- Staff explain boundaries, expected behaviour and stop instructions before the activity.
- A first aid kit, emergency contacts and a means of communication are available.
- Equipment/activity areas are visually checked before use and defects are removed from use or isolated.
- Individual medical, SEND, communication, sensory, behavioural and safeguarding needs are considered.
- Weather, ground, animal and environmental conditions are dynamically assessed where relevant.
- Incidents, near misses and significant concerns are recorded and used to review controls.

Hazard Assessment and Controls

Hazard	Possible Harm	Existing Controls	Further Actions / Monitoring
Unstable heap / climbing	Fall, burial, crush injury	No climbing or playing on muck heap; clear boundary; tipping/loading controlled by staff; keep children away during machinery movement.	Ongoing monitoring. Record defects/incidents and review controls where needed.
Manure, urine, mould, dust	Infection, respiratory or skin irritation	Gloves/tools used where appropriate; cuts covered; handwashing; avoid eating/drinking in area; minimise dust disturbance; suitable clothing/footwear.	Ongoing monitoring. Record defects/incidents and review controls where needed.
Tools/vehicles around heap	Impact, puncture or crush injury	Forks/tools stored safely; vehicle movements separated from learners; reversing controlled; access restricted during collection/removal.	Ongoing monitoring. Record defects/incidents and review controls where needed.

Emergency / Stop Procedure

- Stop the activity and make the area safe.
- Provide first aid and call 999 where there is serious injury, breathing difficulty, suspected anaphylaxis, loss of consciousness or other emergency.
- Supervise remaining children and move them to a safe area.
- Inform parent/carer and relevant manager as soon as practicable.
- Record the incident/near miss and review this assessment and any individual plan before the activity resumes.

Residual Risk Rating

Low to Medium when the stated controls, suitable supervision and individual/dynamic risk assessment are in place. Some activities may remain Medium due to their inherent nature and must only proceed when staff judge the conditions and participant needs to be suitable.

Relevant UK Legal / Guidance Framework

- Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974
- Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999
- Workplace (Health, Safety and Welfare) Regulations 1992 where applicable
- Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations 1998 (PUWER) where work equipment is used
- Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 2002 (COSHH) where hazardous substances/biological agents are relevant
- Manual Handling Operations Regulations 1992 where manual handling is relevant
- Work at Height Regulations 2005 where work at height is relevant
- Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 2013 (RIDDOR) where reporting thresholds are met
- Food Safety Act 1990 and food hygiene/allergen requirements where food is prepared or supplied
- Current safeguarding, first-aid, fire-safety and organisational policies/procedures as applicable.

Monitoring and Review

Review annually and sooner after an accident, incident or near miss; a significant change to equipment, activity, site or participant needs; new guidance; or where controls are found to be ineffective.

Assessor	Samantha Wallace	Date	August 2026
Approver	Kara Dhyan	Date	August 2026

Risk Assessment: Physical Restraint

Organisation	Herd Thyme Alternative Provision
Location	Herd Thyme, Crofton, Wiltshire / relevant off-site location where separately approved
Assessment Date	August 2026
Review Date	August 2027
Assessor / Approver	Samantha Wallace / Kara Dhyan

Activity

Supervised participation in physical restraint as part of Herd Thyme Alternative Provision activities, adapted to the age, ability, needs and individual risk profile of each child or young person.

Persons at Risk

- Children and young people attending sessions
- Staff and volunteers
- Visitors and other persons who may be affected

Risk Assessment Statement

Herd Thyme Alternative Provision supports practical, outdoor and experiential learning while managing foreseeable risks so far as is reasonably practicable. Staff must use this assessment alongside individual information and a dynamic risk assessment before and during the activity. If safe control cannot be maintained, the activity must stop or be adapted.

Existing Control Measures

- Appropriate supervision and staff-to-child ratios are maintained.
- Staff explain boundaries, expected behaviour and stop instructions before the activity.
- A first aid kit, emergency contacts and a means of communication are available.
- Equipment/activity areas are visually checked before use and defects are removed from use or isolated.
- Individual medical, SEND, communication, sensory, behavioural and safeguarding needs are considered.
- Weather, ground, animal and environmental conditions are dynamically assessed where relevant.
- Incidents, near misses and significant concerns are recorded and used to review controls.

Hazard Assessment and Controls

Hazard	Possible Harm	Existing Controls	Further Actions / Monitoring
Behaviour presenting immediate risk of injury	Injury to child, staff or others; distress	Primary approach is prevention, de-escalation and least-restrictive support. Physical intervention used only when necessary, proportionate and in accordance with current organisational safeguarding/positive handling policy and the individual plan.	Ongoing monitoring. Record defects/incidents and review controls where needed.
Unsafe technique or prolonged intervention	Physical or psychological harm	Only staff with appropriate training/competence use planned techniques; avoid pressure to neck/chest and positions that compromise breathing; continuously monitor wellbeing; release as soon as safe.	Ongoing monitoring. Record defects/incidents and review controls where needed.
Post-incident effects / safeguarding	Injury, trauma, allegation	Check welfare and provide first aid/medical help; record and report promptly; inform appropriate managers/parents/carers in line with policy; debrief and review risk/support plan; safeguarding referral considered where indicated.	Ongoing monitoring. Record defects/incidents and review controls where needed.

Emergency / Stop Procedure

- Stop the activity and make the area safe.
- Provide first aid and call 999 where there is serious injury, breathing difficulty, suspected anaphylaxis, loss of consciousness or other emergency.
- Supervise remaining children and move them to a safe area.
- Inform parent/carer and relevant manager as soon as practicable.
- Record the incident/near miss and review this assessment and any individual plan before the activity resumes.

Residual Risk Rating

Low to Medium when the stated controls, suitable supervision and individual/dynamic risk assessment are in place. Some activities may remain Medium due to their inherent nature and must only proceed when staff judge the conditions and participant needs to be suitable.

Relevant UK Legal / Guidance Framework

- Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974
- Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999
- Workplace (Health, Safety and Welfare) Regulations 1992 where applicable
- Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations 1998 (PUWER) where work equipment is used
- Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 2002 (COSHH) where hazardous substances/biological agents are relevant
- Manual Handling Operations Regulations 1992 where manual handling is relevant
- Work at Height Regulations 2005 where work at height is relevant
- Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 2013 (RIDDOR) where reporting thresholds are met
- Food Safety Act 1990 and food hygiene/allergen requirements where food is prepared or supplied
- Current safeguarding, first-aid, fire-safety and organisational policies/procedures as applicable.

Monitoring and Review

Review annually and sooner after an accident, incident or near miss; a significant change to equipment, activity, site or participant needs; new guidance; or where controls are found to be ineffective.

Assessor	Samantha Wallace	Date	August 2026
Approver	Kara Dhyan	Date	August 2026

Risk Assessment: Public footpath through the farm

Organisation	Herd Thyme Alternative Provision
Location	Herd Thyme, Crofton, Wiltshire / relevant off-site location where separately approved
Assessment Date	August 2026
Review Date	August 2027
Assessor / Approver	Samantha Wallace / Kara Dhyan

Activity

Supervised participation in public footpath through the farm as part of Herd Thyme Alternative Provision activities, adapted to the age, ability, needs and individual risk profile of each child or young person.

Persons at Risk

- Children and young people attending sessions
- Staff and volunteers
- Visitors and other persons who may be affected

Risk Assessment Statement

Herd Thyme Alternative Provision supports practical, outdoor and experiential learning while managing foreseeable risks so far as is reasonably practicable. Staff must use this assessment alongside individual information and a dynamic risk assessment before and during the activity. If safe control cannot be maintained, the activity must stop or be adapted.

Existing Control Measures

- Appropriate supervision and staff-to-child ratios are maintained.
- Staff explain boundaries, expected behaviour and stop instructions before the activity.
- A first aid kit, emergency contacts and a means of communication are available.
- Equipment/activity areas are visually checked before use and defects are removed from use or isolated.
- Individual medical, SEND, communication, sensory, behavioural and safeguarding needs are considered.
- Weather, ground, animal and environmental conditions are dynamically assessed where relevant.
- Incidents, near misses and significant concerns are recorded and used to review controls.

Hazard Assessment and Controls

Hazard	Possible Harm	Existing Controls	Further Actions / Monitoring
Members of public, dogs, cyclists or unfamiliar people	Collision, dog bite, safeguarding concern, distress	Participants briefed that route is public; staff supervise crossings/interactions; maintain appropriate distance; dogs not approached without permission; vulnerable participants supported.	Ongoing monitoring. Record defects/incidents and review controls where needed.
Gate security / livestock escape	Animal escape or crush	Gates closed/secured after use; staff monitor public access near livestock; participants do not challenge members of public; defects/signage concerns reported.	Ongoing monitoring. Record defects/incidents and review controls where needed.
Uneven/muddy path	Trips and falls	Suitable footwear; route checks; pace adapted; alternative route used when conditions unsafe.	Ongoing monitoring. Record defects/incidents and review controls where needed.

Emergency / Stop Procedure

- Stop the activity and make the area safe.
- Provide first aid and call 999 where there is serious injury, breathing difficulty, suspected anaphylaxis, loss of consciousness or other emergency.
- Supervise remaining children and move them to a safe area.
- Inform parent/carer and relevant manager as soon as practicable.
- Record the incident/near miss and review this assessment and any individual plan before the activity resumes.

Residual Risk Rating

Low to Medium when the stated controls, suitable supervision and individual/dynamic risk assessment are in place. Some activities may remain Medium due to their inherent nature and must only proceed when staff judge the conditions and participant needs to be suitable.

Relevant UK Legal / Guidance Framework

- Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974
- Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999
- Workplace (Health, Safety and Welfare) Regulations 1992 where applicable
- Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations 1998 (PUWER) where work equipment is used
- Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 2002 (COSHH) where hazardous substances/biological agents are relevant
- Manual Handling Operations Regulations 1992 where manual handling is relevant
- Work at Height Regulations 2005 where work at height is relevant
- Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 2013 (RIDDOR) where reporting thresholds are met
- Food Safety Act 1990 and food hygiene/allergen requirements where food is prepared or supplied
- Current safeguarding, first-aid, fire-safety and organisational policies/procedures as applicable.

Monitoring and Review

Review annually and sooner after an accident, incident or near miss; a significant change to equipment, activity, site or participant needs; new guidance; or where controls are found to be ineffective.

Assessor	Samantha Wallace	Date	August 2026
Approver	Kara Dhyan	Date	August 2026

Risk Assessment: Putting on a headcollar / grooming

Organisation	Herd Thyme Alternative Provision
Location	Herd Thyme, Crofton, Wiltshire / relevant off-site location where separately approved
Assessment Date	August 2026
Review Date	August 2027
Assessor / Approver	Samantha Wallace / Kara Dhyan

Activity

Supervised participation in putting on a headcollar / grooming as part of Herd Thyme Alternative Provision activities, adapted to the age, ability, needs and individual risk profile of each child or young person.

Persons at Risk

- Children and young people attending sessions
- Staff and volunteers
- Visitors and other persons who may be affected

Risk Assessment Statement

Herd Thyme Alternative Provision supports practical, outdoor and experiential learning while managing foreseeable risks so far as is reasonably practicable. Staff must use this assessment alongside individual information and a dynamic risk assessment before and during the activity. If safe control cannot be maintained, the activity must stop or be adapted.

Existing Control Measures

- Appropriate supervision and staff-to-child ratios are maintained.
- Staff explain boundaries, expected behaviour and stop instructions before the activity.
- A first aid kit, emergency contacts and a means of communication are available.
- Equipment/activity areas are visually checked before use and defects are removed from use or isolated.
- Individual medical, SEND, communication, sensory, behavioural and safeguarding needs are considered.
- Weather, ground, animal and environmental conditions are dynamically assessed where relevant.
- Incidents, near misses and significant concerns are recorded and used to review controls.

Hazard Assessment and Controls

Hazard	Possible Harm	Existing Controls	Further Actions / Monitoring
Horse movement, bite or kick	Crush, bite, kick, foot injury	Suitable calm horse; competent supervision; horse secured appropriately; approach from visible safe position; participant shown safe zones; robust footwear; staff intervene if horse unsettled.	Ongoing monitoring. Record defects/incidents and review controls where needed.
Headcollar/lead rope entanglement	Finger/hand injury or horse panic	Correct fit and technique taught; fingers kept clear of buckles; rope not wrapped around body; quick release method used where appropriate; equipment inspected.	Ongoing monitoring. Record defects/incidents and review controls where needed.
Grooming tools / dust	Minor injury, allergy or respiratory irritation	Correct brush use demonstrated; no kneeling under horse; tools kept tidy; handwashing; individual allergies considered; stop if excessive dust or distress.	Ongoing monitoring. Record defects/incidents and review controls where needed.

Emergency / Stop Procedure

- Stop the activity and make the area safe.
- Provide first aid and call 999 where there is serious injury, breathing difficulty, suspected anaphylaxis, loss of consciousness or other emergency.
- Supervise remaining children and move them to a safe area.
- Inform parent/carer and relevant manager as soon as practicable.
- Record the incident/near miss and review this assessment and any individual plan before the activity resumes.

Residual Risk Rating

Low to Medium when the stated controls, suitable supervision and individual/dynamic risk assessment are in place. Some activities may remain Medium due to their inherent nature and must only proceed when staff judge the conditions and participant needs to be suitable.

Relevant UK Legal / Guidance Framework

- Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974
- Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999
- Workplace (Health, Safety and Welfare) Regulations 1992 where applicable
- Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations 1998 (PUWER) where work equipment is used
- Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 2002 (COSHH) where hazardous substances/biological agents are relevant
- Manual Handling Operations Regulations 1992 where manual handling is relevant
- Work at Height Regulations 2005 where work at height is relevant
- Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 2013 (RIDDOR) where reporting thresholds are met
- Food Safety Act 1990 and food hygiene/allergen requirements where food is prepared or supplied
- Current safeguarding, first-aid, fire-safety and organisational policies/procedures as applicable.

Monitoring and Review

Review annually and sooner after an accident, incident or near miss; a significant change to equipment, activity, site or participant needs; new guidance; or where controls are found to be ineffective.

Assessor	Samantha Wallace	Date	August 2026
Approver	Kara Dhyan	Date	August 2026

Risk Assessment: Pyrography Pen

Organisation	Herd Thyme Alternative Provision
Location	Herd Thyme, Crofton, Wiltshire / relevant off-site location where separately approved
Assessment Date	August 2026
Review Date	August 2027
Assessor / Approver	Samantha Wallace / Kara Dhyan

Activity

Supervised participation in pyrography pen as part of Herd Thyme Alternative Provision activities, adapted to the age, ability, needs and individual risk profile of each child or young person.

Persons at Risk

- Children and young people attending sessions
- Staff and volunteers
- Visitors and other persons who may be affected

Risk Assessment Statement

Herd Thyme Alternative Provision supports practical, outdoor and experiential learning while managing foreseeable risks so far as is reasonably practicable. Staff must use this assessment alongside individual information and a dynamic risk assessment before and during the activity. If safe control cannot be maintained, the activity must stop or be adapted.

Existing Control Measures

- Appropriate supervision and staff-to-child ratios are maintained.
- Staff explain boundaries, expected behaviour and stop instructions before the activity.
- A first aid kit, emergency contacts and a means of communication are available.
- Equipment/activity areas are visually checked before use and defects are removed from use or isolated.
- Individual medical, SEND, communication, sensory, behavioural and safeguarding needs are considered.
- Weather, ground, animal and environmental conditions are dynamically assessed where relevant.
- Incidents, near misses and significant concerns are recorded and used to review controls.

Hazard Assessment and Controls

Hazard	Possible Harm	Existing Controls	Further Actions / Monitoring
Very hot tip	Serious burns / fire	Only under direct competent supervision; heatproof stand and work mat; clear hot-tool zone; tip never touched; tool placed in stand whenever not in hand; cool fully before storage.	Ongoing monitoring. Record defects/incidents and review controls where needed.
Wood smoke/fumes	Respiratory irritation	Good ventilation; use clean untreated suitable wood only; avoid painted, varnished, glued or chemically treated materials; limit smoke generation; stop if irritation occurs.	Ongoing monitoring. Record defects/incidents and review controls where needed.
Electrical equipment	Shock/fire	Pre-use visual check; damaged cable/tool removed; cable managed to prevent trips/contact with hot tip; unplug after use; maintenance per manufacturer instructions.	Ongoing monitoring. Record defects/incidents and review controls where needed.

Emergency / Stop Procedure

- Stop the activity and make the area safe.
- Provide first aid and call 999 where there is serious injury, breathing difficulty, suspected anaphylaxis, loss of consciousness or other emergency.
- Supervise remaining children and move them to a safe area.
- Inform parent/carer and relevant manager as soon as practicable.
- Record the incident/near miss and review this assessment and any individual plan before the activity resumes.

Residual Risk Rating

Low to Medium when the stated controls, suitable supervision and individual/dynamic risk assessment are in place. Some activities may remain Medium due to their inherent nature and must only proceed when staff judge the conditions and participant needs to be suitable.

Relevant UK Legal / Guidance Framework

- Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974
- Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999
- Workplace (Health, Safety and Welfare) Regulations 1992 where applicable
- Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations 1998 (PUWER) where work equipment is used
- Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 2002 (COSHH) where hazardous substances/biological agents are relevant
- Manual Handling Operations Regulations 1992 where manual handling is relevant
- Work at Height Regulations 2005 where work at height is relevant
- Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 2013 (RIDDOR) where reporting thresholds are met
- Food Safety Act 1990 and food hygiene/allergen requirements where food is prepared or supplied
- Current safeguarding, first-aid, fire-safety and organisational policies/procedures as applicable.

Monitoring and Review

Review annually and sooner after an accident, incident or near miss; a significant change to equipment, activity, site or participant needs; new guidance; or where controls are found to be ineffective.

Assessor	Samantha Wallace	Date	August 2026
Approver	Kara Dhyan	Date	August 2026

Risk Assessment: Shepherds Hut and Gypsy Wagon

Organisation	Herd Thyme Alternative Provision
Location	Herd Thyme, Crofton, Wiltshire / relevant off-site location where separately approved
Assessment Date	August 2026
Review Date	August 2027
Assessor / Approver	Samantha Wallace / Kara Dhyan

Activity

Supervised participation in shepherds hut and gypsy wagon as part of Herd Thyme Alternative Provision activities, adapted to the age, ability, needs and individual risk profile of each child or young person.

Persons at Risk

- Children and young people attending sessions
- Staff and volunteers
- Visitors and other persons who may be affected

Risk Assessment Statement

Herd Thyme Alternative Provision supports practical, outdoor and experiential learning while managing foreseeable risks so far as is reasonably practicable. Staff must use this assessment alongside individual information and a dynamic risk assessment before and during the activity. If safe control cannot be maintained, the activity must stop or be adapted.

Existing Control Measures

- Appropriate supervision and staff-to-child ratios are maintained.
- Staff explain boundaries, expected behaviour and stop instructions before the activity.
- A first aid kit, emergency contacts and a means of communication are available.
- Equipment/activity areas are visually checked before use and defects are removed from use or isolated.
- Individual medical, SEND, communication, sensory, behavioural and safeguarding needs are considered.
- Weather, ground, animal and environmental conditions are dynamically assessed where relevant.
- Incidents, near misses and significant concerns are recorded and used to review controls.

Hazard Assessment and Controls

Hazard	Possible Harm	Existing Controls	Further Actions / Monitoring
Steps, thresholds and confined access	Trips, falls, bumps	Steps/handholds maintained; entry kept clear and dry; adequate lighting; one person at a time on narrow steps; staff support where needed.	Ongoing monitoring. Record defects/incidents and review controls where needed.
Woodburner/heaters/cooking equipment if present	Burns, fire, carbon monoxide	Hot appliances guarded/controlled; combustibles kept clear; ventilation maintained; CO/smoke alarms where applicable; children supervised; separate appliance risk assessment followed.	Ongoing monitoring. Record defects/incidents and review controls where needed.
Doors/windows/furniture	Trapped fingers, splinters, collapse	Routine checks; doors secured against slamming; damaged furniture removed; sharp edges/splinters repaired; occupancy kept appropriate.	Ongoing monitoring. Record defects/incidents and review controls where needed.

Emergency / Stop Procedure

- Stop the activity and make the area safe.
- Provide first aid and call 999 where there is serious injury, breathing difficulty, suspected anaphylaxis, loss of consciousness or other emergency.
- Supervise remaining children and move them to a safe area.
- Inform parent/carer and relevant manager as soon as practicable.
- Record the incident/near miss and review this assessment and any individual plan before the activity resumes.

Residual Risk Rating

Low to Medium when the stated controls, suitable supervision and individual/dynamic risk assessment are in place. Some activities may remain Medium due to their inherent nature and must only proceed when staff judge the conditions and participant needs to be suitable.

Relevant UK Legal / Guidance Framework

- Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974
- Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999
- Workplace (Health, Safety and Welfare) Regulations 1992 where applicable
- Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations 1998 (PUWER) where work equipment is used
- Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 2002 (COSHH) where hazardous substances/biological agents are relevant
- Manual Handling Operations Regulations 1992 where manual handling is relevant
- Work at Height Regulations 2005 where work at height is relevant
- Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 2013 (RIDDOR) where reporting thresholds are met
- Food Safety Act 1990 and food hygiene/allergen requirements where food is prepared or supplied
- Current safeguarding, first-aid, fire-safety and organisational policies/procedures as applicable.

Monitoring and Review

Review annually and sooner after an accident, incident or near miss; a significant change to equipment, activity, site or participant needs; new guidance; or where controls are found to be ineffective.

Assessor	Samantha Wallace	Date	August 2026
Approver	Kara Dhyan	Date	August 2026

Risk Assessment: Stable Yard and tools

Organisation	Herd Thyme Alternative Provision
Location	Herd Thyme, Crofton, Wiltshire / relevant off-site location where separately approved
Assessment Date	August 2026
Review Date	August 2027
Assessor / Approver	Samantha Wallace / Kara Dhyan

Activity

Supervised participation in stable yard and tools as part of Herd Thyme Alternative Provision activities, adapted to the age, ability, needs and individual risk profile of each child or young person.

Persons at Risk

- Children and young people attending sessions
- Staff and volunteers
- Visitors and other persons who may be affected

Risk Assessment Statement

Herd Thyme Alternative Provision supports practical, outdoor and experiential learning while managing foreseeable risks so far as is reasonably practicable. Staff must use this assessment alongside individual information and a dynamic risk assessment before and during the activity. If safe control cannot be maintained, the activity must stop or be adapted.

Existing Control Measures

- Appropriate supervision and staff-to-child ratios are maintained.
- Staff explain boundaries, expected behaviour and stop instructions before the activity.
- A first aid kit, emergency contacts and a means of communication are available.
- Equipment/activity areas are visually checked before use and defects are removed from use or isolated.
- Individual medical, SEND, communication, sensory, behavioural and safeguarding needs are considered.
- Weather, ground, animal and environmental conditions are dynamically assessed where relevant.
- Incidents, near misses and significant concerns are recorded and used to review controls.

Hazard Assessment and Controls

Hazard	Possible Harm	Existing Controls	Further Actions / Monitoring
Forks, brooms, wheelbarrows and hand tools	Cuts, puncture, impact, strain	Tools selected for task and user; instruction and supervision; safe spacing; carry/store tools with points/tines controlled; damaged tools removed; wheelbarrow loads manageable.	Ongoing monitoring. Record defects/incidents and review controls where needed.
Horses and yard traffic	Kick, crush, collision	Clear routes; animal/vehicle movements controlled; no standing in gateways; high-risk movements separated from learner activities.	Ongoing monitoring. Record defects/incidents and review controls where needed.
Wet floors, hoses, clutter	Slips/trips	Good housekeeping; hoses/tools stored; spills/manure cleared; suitable footwear; lighting maintained.	Ongoing monitoring. Record defects/incidents and review controls where needed.

Emergency / Stop Procedure

- Stop the activity and make the area safe.

- Provide first aid and call 999 where there is serious injury, breathing difficulty, suspected anaphylaxis, loss of consciousness or other emergency.
- Supervise remaining children and move them to a safe area.
- Inform parent/carer and relevant manager as soon as practicable.
- Record the incident/near miss and review this assessment and any individual plan before the activity resumes.

Residual Risk Rating

Low to Medium when the stated controls, suitable supervision and individual/dynamic risk assessment are in place. Some activities may remain Medium due to their inherent nature and must only proceed when staff judge the conditions and participant needs to be suitable.

Relevant UK Legal / Guidance Framework

- Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974
- Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999
- Workplace (Health, Safety and Welfare) Regulations 1992 where applicable
- Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations 1998 (PUWER) where work equipment is used
- Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 2002 (COSHH) where hazardous substances/biological agents are relevant
- Manual Handling Operations Regulations 1992 where manual handling is relevant
- Work at Height Regulations 2005 where work at height is relevant
- Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 2013 (RIDDOR) where reporting thresholds are met
- Food Safety Act 1990 and food hygiene/allergen requirements where food is prepared or supplied
- Current safeguarding, first-aid, fire-safety and organisational policies/procedures as applicable.

Monitoring and Review

Review annually and sooner after an accident, incident or near miss; a significant change to equipment, activity, site or participant needs; new guidance; or where controls are found to be ineffective.

Assessor	Samantha Wallace	Date	August 2026
Approver	Kara Dhyan	Date	August 2026

Risk Assessment: Toilet Use

Organisation	Herd Thyme Alternative Provision
Location	Herd Thyme, Crofton, Wiltshire / relevant off-site location where separately approved
Assessment Date	August 2026
Review Date	August 2027
Assessor / Approver	Samantha Wallace / Kara Dhyan

Activity

Supervised participation in toilet use as part of Herd Thyme Alternative Provision activities, adapted to the age, ability, needs and individual risk profile of each child or young person.

Persons at Risk

- Children and young people attending sessions
- Staff and volunteers
- Visitors and other persons who may be affected

Risk Assessment Statement

Herd Thyme Alternative Provision supports practical, outdoor and experiential learning while managing foreseeable risks so far as is reasonably practicable. Staff must use this assessment alongside individual information and a dynamic risk assessment before and during the activity. If safe control cannot be maintained, the activity must stop or be adapted.

Existing Control Measures

- Appropriate supervision and staff-to-child ratios are maintained.
- Staff explain boundaries, expected behaviour and stop instructions before the activity.
- A first aid kit, emergency contacts and a means of communication are available.
- Equipment/activity areas are visually checked before use and defects are removed from use or isolated.
- Individual medical, SEND, communication, sensory, behavioural and safeguarding needs are considered.
- Weather, ground, animal and environmental conditions are dynamically assessed where relevant.
- Incidents, near misses and significant concerns are recorded and used to review controls.

Hazard Assessment and Controls

Hazard	Possible Harm	Existing Controls	Further Actions / Monitoring
Slips, wet floors and cleaning products	Falls, chemical exposure	Toilets inspected/cleaned; spills dealt with promptly; cleaning chemicals stored securely and used under COSHH arrangements; handwashing supplies available.	Ongoing monitoring. Record defects/incidents and review controls where needed.
Safeguarding/privacy	Distress, allegation, inappropriate contact	Age/need-appropriate privacy maintained; staff follow safeguarding and intimate/personal care boundaries; assistance only as agreed in individual support arrangements; concerns reported.	Ongoing monitoring. Record defects/incidents and review controls where needed.
Infection transmission	Illness	Handwashing promoted; touchpoints cleaned; waste disposed of hygienically; unwell participants managed in line with illness procedures.	Ongoing monitoring. Record defects/incidents and review controls where needed.

Emergency / Stop Procedure

- Stop the activity and make the area safe.
- Provide first aid and call 999 where there is serious injury, breathing difficulty, suspected anaphylaxis, loss of consciousness or other emergency.
- Supervise remaining children and move them to a safe area.
- Inform parent/carer and relevant manager as soon as practicable.
- Record the incident/near miss and review this assessment and any individual plan before the activity resumes.

Residual Risk Rating

Low to Medium when the stated controls, suitable supervision and individual/dynamic risk assessment are in place. Some activities may remain Medium due to their inherent nature and must only proceed when staff judge the conditions and participant needs to be suitable.

Relevant UK Legal / Guidance Framework

- Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974
- Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999
- Workplace (Health, Safety and Welfare) Regulations 1992 where applicable
- Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations 1998 (PUWER) where work equipment is used
- Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 2002 (COSHH) where hazardous substances/biological agents are relevant
- Manual Handling Operations Regulations 1992 where manual handling is relevant
- Work at Height Regulations 2005 where work at height is relevant
- Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 2013 (RIDDOR) where reporting thresholds are met
- Food Safety Act 1990 and food hygiene/allergen requirements where food is prepared or supplied
- Current safeguarding, first-aid, fire-safety and organisational policies/procedures as applicable.

Monitoring and Review

Review annually and sooner after an accident, incident or near miss; a significant change to equipment, activity, site or participant needs; new guidance; or where controls are found to be ineffective.

Assessor	Samantha Wallace	Date	August 2026
Approver	Kara Dhyan	Date	August 2026

Risk Assessment: Trips and Falls

Organisation	Herd Thyme Alternative Provision
Location	Herd Thyme, Crofton, Wiltshire / relevant off-site location where separately approved
Assessment Date	August 2026
Review Date	August 2027
Assessor / Approver	Samantha Wallace / Kara Dhyan

Activity

Supervised participation in trips and falls as part of Herd Thyme Alternative Provision activities, adapted to the age, ability, needs and individual risk profile of each child or young person.

Persons at Risk

- Children and young people attending sessions
- Staff and volunteers
- Visitors and other persons who may be affected

Risk Assessment Statement

Herd Thyme Alternative Provision supports practical, outdoor and experiential learning while managing foreseeable risks so far as is reasonably practicable. Staff must use this assessment alongside individual information and a dynamic risk assessment before and during the activity. If safe control cannot be maintained, the activity must stop or be adapted.

Existing Control Measures

- Appropriate supervision and staff-to-child ratios are maintained.
- Staff explain boundaries, expected behaviour and stop instructions before the activity.
- A first aid kit, emergency contacts and a means of communication are available.
- Equipment/activity areas are visually checked before use and defects are removed from use or isolated.
- Individual medical, SEND, communication, sensory, behavioural and safeguarding needs are considered.
- Weather, ground, animal and environmental conditions are dynamically assessed where relevant.
- Incidents, near misses and significant concerns are recorded and used to review controls.

Hazard Assessment and Controls

Hazard	Possible Harm	Existing Controls	Further Actions / Monitoring
Uneven ground, mud, steps, clutter, trailing cables	Sprains, fractures, cuts, head injury	Routine site checks and good housekeeping; routes kept clear; defects marked/repaired; suitable footwear; lighting adequate; activities adapted to weather/ground conditions.	Ongoing monitoring. Record defects/incidents and review controls where needed.
Running/horseplay or reduced awareness	Collision/fall	Clear behavioural expectations; supervision; pace adapted; individual mobility/sensory needs considered.	Ongoing monitoring. Record defects/incidents and review controls where needed.
Fall causing injury	Further harm / delayed treatment	First aid available; do not move person if serious injury suspected unless necessary for immediate safety; call 999 when indicated; record and review incident.	Ongoing monitoring. Record defects/incidents and review controls where needed.

Emergency / Stop Procedure

- Stop the activity and make the area safe.
- Provide first aid and call 999 where there is serious injury, breathing difficulty, suspected anaphylaxis, loss of consciousness or other emergency.
- Supervise remaining children and move them to a safe area.
- Inform parent/carer and relevant manager as soon as practicable.
- Record the incident/near miss and review this assessment and any individual plan before the activity resumes.

Residual Risk Rating

Low to Medium when the stated controls, suitable supervision and individual/dynamic risk assessment are in place. Some activities may remain Medium due to their inherent nature and must only proceed when staff judge the conditions and participant needs to be suitable.

Relevant UK Legal / Guidance Framework

- Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974
- Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999
- Workplace (Health, Safety and Welfare) Regulations 1992 where applicable
- Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations 1998 (PUWER) where work equipment is used
- Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 2002 (COSHH) where hazardous substances/biological agents are relevant
- Manual Handling Operations Regulations 1992 where manual handling is relevant
- Work at Height Regulations 2005 where work at height is relevant
- Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 2013 (RIDDOR) where reporting thresholds are met
- Food Safety Act 1990 and food hygiene/allergen requirements where food is prepared or supplied
- Current safeguarding, first-aid, fire-safety and organisational policies/procedures as applicable.

Monitoring and Review

Review annually and sooner after an accident, incident or near miss; a significant change to equipment, activity, site or participant needs; new guidance; or where controls are found to be ineffective.

Assessor	Samantha Wallace	Date	August 2026
Approver	Kara Dhyan	Date	August 2026

Risk Assessment: Woodburner

Organisation	Herd Thyme Alternative Provision
Location	Herd Thyme, Crofton, Wiltshire / relevant off-site location where separately approved
Assessment Date	August 2026
Review Date	August 2027
Assessor / Approver	Samantha Wallace / Kara Dhyan

Activity

Supervised participation in woodburner as part of Herd Thyme Alternative Provision activities, adapted to the age, ability, needs and individual risk profile of each child or young person.

Persons at Risk

- Children and young people attending sessions
- Staff and volunteers
- Visitors and other persons who may be affected

Risk Assessment Statement

Herd Thyme Alternative Provision supports practical, outdoor and experiential learning while managing foreseeable risks so far as is reasonably practicable. Staff must use this assessment alongside individual information and a dynamic risk assessment before and during the activity. If safe control cannot be maintained, the activity must stop or be adapted.

Existing Control Measures

- Appropriate supervision and staff-to-child ratios are maintained.
- Staff explain boundaries, expected behaviour and stop instructions before the activity.
- A first aid kit, emergency contacts and a means of communication are available.
- Equipment/activity areas are visually checked before use and defects are removed from use or isolated.
- Individual medical, SEND, communication, sensory, behavioural and safeguarding needs are considered.
- Weather, ground, animal and environmental conditions are dynamically assessed where relevant.
- Incidents, near misses and significant concerns are recorded and used to review controls.

Hazard Assessment and Controls

Hazard	Possible Harm	Existing Controls	Further Actions / Monitoring
Hot stove, door, flue and embers	Burns and fire	Guard/safe boundary; children supervised; only authorised adults add fuel/open stove unless specifically trained and directly supervised; combustibles kept clear; heatproof tools/gloves used.	Ongoing monitoring. Record defects/incidents and review controls where needed.
Smoke/carbon monoxide	Poisoning / respiratory effects	Correct ventilation and flue maintenance; suitable fuel only; smoke and CO alarms installed/tested where applicable; stop use and evacuate if alarm activates or fumes suspected.	Ongoing monitoring. Record defects/incidents and review controls where needed.
Ash disposal	Burn/fire	Ash treated as hot until fully cold; metal container used; disposed of away from combustibles; area kept tidy.	Ongoing monitoring. Record defects/incidents and review controls where needed.

Emergency / Stop Procedure

- Stop the activity and make the area safe.
- Provide first aid and call 999 where there is serious injury, breathing difficulty, suspected anaphylaxis, loss of consciousness or other emergency.
- Supervise remaining children and move them to a safe area.
- Inform parent/carer and relevant manager as soon as practicable.
- Record the incident/near miss and review this assessment and any individual plan before the activity resumes.

Residual Risk Rating

Low to Medium when the stated controls, suitable supervision and individual/dynamic risk assessment are in place. Some activities may remain Medium due to their inherent nature and must only proceed when staff judge the conditions and participant needs to be suitable.

Relevant UK Legal / Guidance Framework

- Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974
- Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999
- Workplace (Health, Safety and Welfare) Regulations 1992 where applicable
- Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations 1998 (PUWER) where work equipment is used
- Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 2002 (COSHH) where hazardous substances/biological agents are relevant
- Manual Handling Operations Regulations 1992 where manual handling is relevant
- Work at Height Regulations 2005 where work at height is relevant
- Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 2013 (RIDDOR) where reporting thresholds are met
- Food Safety Act 1990 and food hygiene/allergen requirements where food is prepared or supplied
- Current safeguarding, first-aid, fire-safety and organisational policies/procedures as applicable.

Monitoring and Review

Review annually and sooner after an accident, incident or near miss; a significant change to equipment, activity, site or participant needs; new guidance; or where controls are found to be ineffective.

Assessor	Samantha Wallace	Date	August 2026
Approver	Kara Dhyan	Date	August 2026

Risk Assessment: Work related stress

Organisation	Herd Thyme Alternative Provision
Location	Herd Thyme, Crofton, Wiltshire / relevant off-site location where separately approved
Assessment Date	August 2026
Review Date	August 2027
Assessor / Approver	Samantha Wallace / Kara Dhyan

Activity

Supervised participation in work related stress as part of Herd Thyme Alternative Provision activities, adapted to the age, ability, needs and individual risk profile of each child or young person.

Persons at Risk

- Children and young people attending sessions
- Staff and volunteers
- Visitors and other persons who may be affected

Risk Assessment Statement

Herd Thyme Alternative Provision supports practical, outdoor and experiential learning while managing foreseeable risks so far as is reasonably practicable. Staff must use this assessment alongside individual information and a dynamic risk assessment before and during the activity. If safe control cannot be maintained, the activity must stop or be adapted.

Existing Control Measures

- Appropriate supervision and staff-to-child ratios are maintained.
- Staff explain boundaries, expected behaviour and stop instructions before the activity.
- A first aid kit, emergency contacts and a means of communication are available.
- Equipment/activity areas are visually checked before use and defects are removed from use or isolated.
- Individual medical, SEND, communication, sensory, behavioural and safeguarding needs are considered.
- Weather, ground, animal and environmental conditions are dynamically assessed where relevant.
- Incidents, near misses and significant concerns are recorded and used to review controls.

Hazard Assessment and Controls

Hazard	Possible Harm	Existing Controls	Further Actions / Monitoring
Workload, role demands, safeguarding responsibilities and challenging situations	Stress, anxiety, fatigue, reduced performance	Clear roles and supervision; reasonable workload planning; regular check-ins; breaks; access to manager support; staff encouraged to raise concerns early; incidents debriefed.	Ongoing monitoring. Record defects/incidents and review controls where needed.
Bullying, conflict or poor communication	Psychological harm	Expected standards of conduct; confidential reporting route; concerns addressed promptly and fairly; communication and team planning maintained.	Ongoing monitoring. Record defects/incidents and review controls where needed.
Traumatic incidents / cumulative emotional load	Burnout or secondary trauma	Post-incident support and debrief; workload adjustment where appropriate; access to occupational health/employee support where available; sickness absence and return-to-work managed supportively.	Ongoing monitoring. Record defects/incidents and review controls where needed.

Emergency / Stop Procedure

- Stop the activity and make the area safe.
- Provide first aid and call 999 where there is serious injury, breathing difficulty, suspected anaphylaxis, loss of consciousness or other emergency.
- Supervise remaining children and move them to a safe area.
- Inform parent/carer and relevant manager as soon as practicable.
- Record the incident/near miss and review this assessment and any individual plan before the activity resumes.

Residual Risk Rating

Low to Medium when the stated controls, suitable supervision and individual/dynamic risk assessment are in place. Some activities may remain Medium due to their inherent nature and must only proceed when staff judge the conditions and participant needs to be suitable.

Relevant UK Legal / Guidance Framework

- Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974
- Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999
- Workplace (Health, Safety and Welfare) Regulations 1992 where applicable
- Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations 1998 (PUWER) where work equipment is used
- Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 2002 (COSHH) where hazardous substances/biological agents are relevant
- Manual Handling Operations Regulations 1992 where manual handling is relevant
- Work at Height Regulations 2005 where work at height is relevant
- Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 2013 (RIDDOR) where reporting thresholds are met
- Food Safety Act 1990 and food hygiene/allergen requirements where food is prepared or supplied
- Current safeguarding, first-aid, fire-safety and organisational policies/procedures as applicable.

Monitoring and Review

Review annually and sooner after an accident, incident or near miss; a significant change to equipment, activity, site or participant needs; new guidance; or where controls are found to be ineffective.

Assessor	Samantha Wallace	Date	August 2026
Approver	Kara Dhyan	Date	August 2026

Risk Assessment: Working at height

Organisation	Herd Thyme Alternative Provision
Location	Herd Thyme, Crofton, Wiltshire / relevant off-site location where separately approved
Assessment Date	August 2026
Review Date	August 2027
Assessor / Approver	Samantha Wallace / Kara Dhyan

Activity

Supervised participation in working at height as part of Herd Thyme Alternative Provision activities, adapted to the age, ability, needs and individual risk profile of each child or young person.

Persons at Risk

- Children and young people attending sessions
- Staff and volunteers
- Visitors and other persons who may be affected

Risk Assessment Statement

Herd Thyme Alternative Provision supports practical, outdoor and experiential learning while managing foreseeable risks so far as is reasonably practicable. Staff must use this assessment alongside individual information and a dynamic risk assessment before and during the activity. If safe control cannot be maintained, the activity must stop or be adapted.

Existing Control Measures

- Appropriate supervision and staff-to-child ratios are maintained.
- Staff explain boundaries, expected behaviour and stop instructions before the activity.
- A first aid kit, emergency contacts and a means of communication are available.
- Equipment/activity areas are visually checked before use and defects are removed from use or isolated.
- Individual medical, SEND, communication, sensory, behavioural and safeguarding needs are considered.
- Weather, ground, animal and environmental conditions are dynamically assessed where relevant.
- Incidents, near misses and significant concerns are recorded and used to review controls.

Hazard Assessment and Controls

Hazard	Possible Harm	Existing Controls	Further Actions / Monitoring
Falls from ladders, steps, platforms or raised surfaces	Major injury or fatality	Avoid work at height where reasonably practicable; properly plan and assess unavoidable work; only competent adults undertake it; suitable inspected access equipment; stable level ground; no makeshift access.	Ongoing monitoring. Record defects/incidents and review controls where needed.
Falling objects	Head/impact injury to people below	Exclusion zone; secure tools/materials; no learners beneath work; equipment not carried in a way that prevents safe access.	Ongoing monitoring. Record defects/incidents and review controls where needed.
Weather / overreaching	Loss of balance	No outdoor height work in unsafe wind/rain/ice; maintain three points of contact where appropriate; reposition equipment rather than overreach; stop if conditions change.	Ongoing monitoring. Record defects/incidents and review controls where needed.

Emergency / Stop Procedure

- Stop the activity and make the area safe.
- Provide first aid and call 999 where there is serious injury, breathing difficulty, suspected anaphylaxis, loss of consciousness or other emergency.
- Supervise remaining children and move them to a safe area.
- Inform parent/carer and relevant manager as soon as practicable.
- Record the incident/near miss and review this assessment and any individual plan before the activity resumes.

Residual Risk Rating

Low to Medium when the stated controls, suitable supervision and individual/dynamic risk assessment are in place. Some activities may remain Medium due to their inherent nature and must only proceed when staff judge the conditions and participant needs to be suitable.

Relevant UK Legal / Guidance Framework

- Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974
- Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999
- Workplace (Health, Safety and Welfare) Regulations 1992 where applicable
- Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations 1998 (PUWER) where work equipment is used
- Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 2002 (COSHH) where hazardous substances/biological agents are relevant
- Manual Handling Operations Regulations 1992 where manual handling is relevant
- Work at Height Regulations 2005 where work at height is relevant
- Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 2013 (RIDDOR) where reporting thresholds are met
- Food Safety Act 1990 and food hygiene/allergen requirements where food is prepared or supplied
- Current safeguarding, first-aid, fire-safety and organisational policies/procedures as applicable.

Monitoring and Review

Review annually and sooner after an accident, incident or near miss; a significant change to equipment, activity, site or participant needs; new guidance; or where controls are found to be ineffective.

Assessor	Samantha Wallace	Date	August 2026
Approver	Kara Dhyan	Date	August 2026

Risk Assessment: Yoga

Organisation	Herd Thyme Alternative Provision
Location	Herd Thyme, Crofton, Wiltshire / relevant off-site location where separately approved
Assessment Date	August 2026
Review Date	August 2027
Assessor / Approver	Samantha Wallace / Kara Dhyan

Activity

Supervised participation in yoga as part of Herd Thyme Alternative Provision activities, adapted to the age, ability, needs and individual risk profile of each child or young person.

Persons at Risk

- Children and young people attending sessions
- Staff and volunteers
- Visitors and other persons who may be affected

Risk Assessment Statement

Herd Thyme Alternative Provision supports practical, outdoor and experiential learning while managing foreseeable risks so far as is reasonably practicable. Staff must use this assessment alongside individual information and a dynamic risk assessment before and during the activity. If safe control cannot be maintained, the activity must stop or be adapted.

Existing Control Measures

- Appropriate supervision and staff-to-child ratios are maintained.
- Staff explain boundaries, expected behaviour and stop instructions before the activity.
- A first aid kit, emergency contacts and a means of communication are available.
- Equipment/activity areas are visually checked before use and defects are removed from use or isolated.
- Individual medical, SEND, communication, sensory, behavioural and safeguarding needs are considered.
- Weather, ground, animal and environmental conditions are dynamically assessed where relevant.
- Incidents, near misses and significant concerns are recorded and used to review controls.

Hazard Assessment and Controls

Hazard	Possible Harm	Existing Controls	Further Actions / Monitoring
Strain, sprain or aggravation of condition	Musculoskeletal injury	Qualified/competent leader or appropriately planned low-risk session; health/individual needs considered; warm-up; participants work within comfortable range and may opt out; no forced positions or hands-on adjustment without consent.	Ongoing monitoring. Record defects/incidents and review controls where needed.
Slips/collisions	Minor injury	Clear level space; suitable mats; adequate spacing; remove shoes where appropriate; no obstacles; calm transitions.	Ongoing monitoring. Record defects/incidents and review controls where needed.
Dizziness, anxiety or sensory discomfort	Fall/distress	Encourage hydration and rest; slow changes of position; offer quieter/alternative activity; stop immediately if pain, dizziness or distress occurs.	Ongoing monitoring. Record defects/incidents and review controls where needed.

Emergency / Stop Procedure

- Stop the activity and make the area safe.
- Provide first aid and call 999 where there is serious injury, breathing difficulty, suspected anaphylaxis, loss of consciousness or other emergency.
- Supervise remaining children and move them to a safe area.
- Inform parent/carer and relevant manager as soon as practicable.
- Record the incident/near miss and review this assessment and any individual plan before the activity resumes.

Residual Risk Rating

Low to Medium when the stated controls, suitable supervision and individual/dynamic risk assessment are in place. Some activities may remain Medium due to their inherent nature and must only proceed when staff judge the conditions and participant needs to be suitable.

Relevant UK Legal / Guidance Framework

- Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974
- Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999
- Workplace (Health, Safety and Welfare) Regulations 1992 where applicable
- Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations 1998 (PUWER) where work equipment is used
- Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 2002 (COSHH) where hazardous substances/biological agents are relevant
- Manual Handling Operations Regulations 1992 where manual handling is relevant
- Work at Height Regulations 2005 where work at height is relevant
- Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 2013 (RIDDOR) where reporting thresholds are met
- Food Safety Act 1990 and food hygiene/allergen requirements where food is prepared or supplied
- Current safeguarding, first-aid, fire-safety and organisational policies/procedures as applicable.

Monitoring and Review

Review annually and sooner after an accident, incident or near miss; a significant change to equipment, activity, site or participant needs; new guidance; or where controls are found to be ineffective.

Assessor	Samantha Wallace	Date	August 2026
Approver	Kara Dhyan	Date	August 2026

Risk Assessment: Field Area with Stream and Rope Swings

Organisation: Herd Thyme Alternative Provision

Location: Field Area with Small Stream and Rope Swings nr Hilda's and Crossing Field, Herd Thyme, Crofton, Wiltshire

Assessment Date: August 2026

Review Date: August 2027

Assessor: Samantha Wallace

Approver: Kara Dhyan

Activity

Outdoor learning, nature-based education, supervised exploration, play, environmental awareness activities and supervised use of rope swings located adjacent to a small stream.

Persons at Risk

- Children and young people attending sessions
- Staff and volunteers
- Visitors

Risk Assessment Statement

Herd Thyme Alternative Provision recognises the educational and developmental value of outdoor learning and managed risk-taking. Children and young people may access the stream field and rope swings only under appropriate staff supervision. Staff will use dynamic risk assessment throughout the activity and will stop or adapt the activity where conditions become unsafe.

Existing Control Measures

- Children and young people remain under staff supervision at all times.
- Appropriate staff-to-child ratios are maintained, taking account of individual needs, behaviour, age and ability.
- Site boundaries and behavioural expectations are explained before the activity.
- Staff carry a mobile phone and have access to emergency contact details.
- A first aid kit and trained first aider are available.
- A visual check of the stream, banks, rope swings, trees, landing areas and access routes is completed before use.
- Dynamic risk assessments are undertaken throughout sessions.
- Staff are familiar with safeguarding and emergency procedures.

Hazard	Risks	Existing Controls	Further Actions
Stream and watercourse	Slips, falls, immersion, drowning and hypothermia.	Stream level monitored using the measuring stick attached to the fence post. Clear boundaries are established. Direct supervision is maintained near the stream. Staff inspect the stream and banks before use and restrict access where conditions are unsafe.	Maintain monitoring records where appropriate.
Elevated stream levels following rainfall	Stronger flow, drowning risk, bank collapse and hidden hazards.	A maximum safe water level is identified by the red marker. If water reaches or exceeds the marker, or flow/bank conditions are unsafe, the	Review safe marker annually and after flooding.

		stream and rope swing area is closed and an alternative activity provided. Dynamic assessment follows heavy rainfall.	
Rope swings attached to trees	Falls, impact injuries, collision with trees or falling into the stream.	Rope, knots, attachment points, tree condition and landing zone are visually checked before use. Direct staff supervision is maintained. Use is controlled to prevent collisions and overcrowding. Defective equipment is taken out of use immediately.	Maintain an inspection log and remove from use if defects are identified.
Uneven ground, holes, mud and slippery surfaces	Trips, slips, sprains and fractures.	Ground conditions are checked before use. Suitable footwear is required. Activities are adapted or stopped during very wet, icy or unsafe conditions. Participants are reminded to move carefully.	Ongoing monitoring.
Trees and overhanging branches	Cuts, bruises, falling branches and head injury.	Trees are visually checked before use. Activities are suspended during strong winds or severe weather. Damaged or hazardous branches are reported and managed.	Consider periodic competent tree inspection where appropriate.
Ticks	Tick bites and potential Lyme disease.	Suitable clothing is encouraged. Parents/carers are advised to check for ticks following outdoor activity. Staff are aware of tick risks and appropriate first-aid response.	Seasonal awareness reminders.
Insect bites and stings	Pain, swelling and allergic reaction.	Known allergies and individual healthcare information are considered. First aid is available. Participants are discouraged from disturbing nests or insect habitats. Emergency procedures are followed for severe reactions.	Review relevant medical information regularly.
Poisonous plants, berries and fungi	Poisoning, skin irritation and allergic reaction.	Participants are instructed not to eat wild plants, berries, seeds or fungi. Staff monitor the area for significant hazards. Handwashing is encouraged after outdoor activities.	Seasonal site checks.
Nettles, brambles and thorny vegetation	Scratches, cuts and skin irritation.	Suitable clothing is encouraged. Staff direct participants away from dense or hazardous vegetation where necessary.	Manage vegetation as required.
Picnic benches and outdoor seating	Trips, splinters, trapped fingers, falls or collapse of damaged furniture.	Benches are visually checked before use and damaged items removed from use. Participants are reminded not to stand, climb or jump from benches. Seating is kept on stable ground where practicable.	Record and rectify defects.
Animal faeces and contaminated water	Infection and gastrointestinal illness.	Participants are instructed not to touch animal waste or drink stream water. Handwashing facilities or sanitiser are	Continue hygiene education.

		available and good hygiene practices are reinforced.	
Adverse weather	Heat illness, sunburn, dehydration, cold exposure, reduced visibility and falling branches.	Weather conditions are checked before sessions. Suitable clothing, sun protection and drinking water are encouraged. Activities are relocated, adapted or cancelled where weather creates unacceptable risk.	Ongoing monitoring.
Manual handling of logs, branches and natural materials	Strains, sprains and crush injuries.	Loads are assessed before lifting. Participants receive instruction and staff assistance where needed. Heavy or awkward items are not moved by children without appropriate supervision.	Ongoing supervision.
Emergency access and evacuation	Delay in emergency response.	Access routes are kept clear. Staff know the site location and emergency procedures, have a mobile phone and can contact emergency services. Participants can be moved to a safe supervised area.	Review emergency arrangements annually.

Dynamic Weather and Water Monitoring Procedure

1. Check recent and forecast weather conditions.
2. Inspect the stream, banks and surrounding ground.
3. Check the water level against the designated safe marker.
4. Assess mud, erosion, bank stability and slip hazards.
5. Close the stream and rope swing area if the water reaches/exceeds the red marker, flow is significantly increased, banks are unstable, or severe weather increases risk.
6. Record significant concerns and actions taken where appropriate.

Daily Site Checks

- Rope swings secure and free from obvious damage or excessive wear.
- Stream level below the designated safe marker.
- Banks stable and free from significant new hazards.
- No significant fallen branches or storm damage.
- Hazardous plants monitored and managed.
- Picnic benches stable and free from significant damage.
- Access and emergency routes clear.

Emergency Procedures

Water incident: raise the alarm immediately, call 999 where required, keep other participants in a safe supervised location, use available rescue equipment without placing staff or others at unnecessary risk, administer first aid when safe to do so, inform parents/carers as soon as practicable, and record/review the incident.

Serious injury: stop the activity, provide first aid, contact emergency services where necessary, supervise the remaining group and report the incident in accordance with Herd Thyme procedures.

Residual Risk Rating

Low to Medium when all control measures are followed and direct supervision is maintained. Access must be stopped whenever weather, water level, equipment condition, individual behaviour or other circumstances make the activity unsafe.

Monitoring and Review

- Annually.
- Following any accident, incident or near miss.
- Following flooding or severe weather.
- Following significant changes to the activity, equipment or site layout.
- Where new information indicates that existing controls may no longer be adequate.

Assessor: Samantha Wallace

Approver: Kara Dhyan

Assessment Date: August 2026

Review Date: August 2027

Risk Assessment: Crossing a Canal Lock Walkway with Handrail/Handle

Organisation	Herd Thyme Alternative Provision
Location	Off-site canal lock crossing / specific route to be confirmed before use
Assessment Date	August 2026
Review Date	August 2027, or sooner following incident, change or concern
Assessor / Approver	Samantha Wallace / Kara Dhyan

Activity

Supervised crossing of a canal lock using the designated fixed walkway or walking board provided for pedestrian passage, with participants using the attached handrail/handle where available. This assessment covers crossing only; children and young people will not operate lock gates, paddles or other lock machinery unless covered by a separate specific risk assessment.

Persons at Risk

- Children and young people attending sessions
- Staff and volunteers
- Visitors and other members of the public who may be affected

Risk Assessment Statement

Herd Thyme Alternative Provision recognises that canal locks present significant water, fall, slip and moving-equipment hazards. Crossing will only take place when staff judge the designated walkway to be safe and appropriate for the individual child or young person. Direct supervision, clear instructions and dynamic risk assessment will be maintained throughout. An alternative route will be used where safe crossing cannot be assured.

Existing Control Measures

- Route and specific lock crossing checked by staff before use where reasonably practicable; local signs, restrictions and closures followed.
- Children and young people remain under direct staff supervision at the lock.
- Participants are briefed before approaching: walk, do not run; wait for staff instruction; cross one at a time or as directed; keep hands free where possible; use the handrail/handle.
- Staff position themselves to supervise the approach, crossing and exit and maintain an appropriate ratio based on individual needs.
- Individual mobility, balance, impulsivity, anxiety, sensory needs, understanding of danger and ability to follow instructions are considered before crossing.
- Suitable closed footwear with good grip is required. The crossing is not used if ice, flooding, severe weather, poor visibility, contamination or other conditions make it unsafe.
- Children do not sit, climb, lean over, play on or jump from lock structures and remain away from unprotected lock edges and moving gates.
- No participant crosses while the walkway/gate is moving or where lock operation creates an unsafe situation. Staff follow any instructions from the navigation authority or lock keeper.
- Staff carry a charged mobile phone, emergency contact information and have access to first-aid arrangements.
- Where the walkway, handrail/handle or surrounding structure appears damaged, loose, excessively slippery or obstructed, it is not used and an alternative route is taken.

Hazard Assessment and Controls

Hazard	Possible Harm	Existing Controls	Further Actions / Monitoring
Open water / deep lock chamber	Drowning, cold-water shock, serious injury or fatality	Direct supervision; maintain safe distance from edges; use designated crossing only; no	Check route before each visit and reinforce water-safety expectations.

		running, pushing, leaning or play near the lock; staff positioned to intervene early.	
Narrow walkway / walking board and fall from height	Fall into lock/water or onto hard surfaces; fractures/head injury	Cross only by the designated walkway; use handrail/handle where provided; one at a time or controlled spacing; staff assess individual ability and provide close support without creating additional imbalance.	Do not use if the crossing is unsuitable for an individual; select an alternative route.
Wet, muddy, algae-covered, icy or uneven surfaces	Slip, trip or fall	Visual check before crossing; suitable footwear with grip; walk slowly; keep hands free; use handrail/handle; avoid crossing where surface condition is unsafe.	Dynamic weather check; avoid during ice, flooding or severe weather.
Damaged, loose or defective walkway/handrail/handle	Loss of balance, fall, cuts or entrapment	Visual check for obvious defects before use; do not use damaged or unstable structures; follow closure signage and report significant defects to the relevant navigation authority.	Record concerns and identify alternative crossing.
Moving lock gates, balance beams, paddles or machinery	Crushing, trapping, impact or fall	Participants do not operate lock equipment under this assessment; keep clear of moving gates/beams and operating boat crews; cross only when staff judge the structure stationary and safe.	Follow lock keeper/navigation authority instructions and local signage.
Other canal users, boat crews, cyclists, dogs or busy towpath	Collision, distraction, separation from group	Group kept together in a safe waiting position away from lock edge; staff manage turn-taking and allow other users space; avoid crowding the crossing.	Increase supervision or wait until the area is clear.
Participant anxiety, impulsivity, sensory overload or difficulty following instructions	Sudden movement, refusal, unsafe behaviour near water	Individual needs reviewed; simple instructions and preparation; staff may offer additional support, increased distance from water or alternative route; activity stopped if behaviour cannot be safely managed.	Record relevant individual controls in the young person's plan.
Adverse weather / high water / flooding / poor visibility	Slips, loss of balance, increased water hazard, falling branches or unsafe access	Check weather and local conditions; postpone or reroute where conditions increase risk; never bypass closures or barriers.	Check navigation authority notices where appropriate before planned visits.
Emergency rescue following person entering water	Risk to casualty and secondary rescuer	Raise alarm; call 999 where required; use available throw line/lifebuoy from a safe position if trained/able; do not enter the water; supervise remaining group away from danger.	Staff to know emergency location details and review incident afterwards.

Pre-Crossing Dynamic Check

- Confirm the designated walkway is open and appears structurally sound.
- Check the surface for water, mud, algae, ice, debris or other slip/trip hazards.
- Check the handrail/handle is present and appears secure where provided.
- Observe whether the lock gate/walkway or associated equipment is moving or being operated.
- Check for boats, cyclists, dogs, crowds or other distractions.
- Confirm each participant is calm, appropriately supervised and able to follow the crossing instructions.
- If any doubt remains, do not cross; use an alternative route.

Emergency Procedure - Person Falls into the Canal/Lock

- Raise the alarm immediately and call 999 for a person in difficulty or where rescue assistance is required.
- Do not enter the water or jump into the lock to attempt a rescue.
- From a safe position, use a lifebuoy, throw line or other approved rescue aid if available and it is safe to do so.
- Keep verbal contact with the person and encourage them towards a safe exit point where possible.
- Move all other children and young people to a safe location and maintain supervision.
- Provide first aid when the casualty is safely recovered and seek appropriate medical assessment, including consideration of cold-water exposure.
- Inform parents/carers and relevant manager as soon as practicable. Record and review the incident before the route is used again.

Residual Risk Rating

Medium when all control measures are followed. The potential severity of a fall into a canal lock remains high even when the likelihood is reduced; therefore direct supervision and a dynamic decision on whether to cross are essential.

Relevant UK Legal / Guidance Framework

- Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974
- Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999
- Workplace (Health, Safety and Welfare) Regulations 1992 where applicable
- Relevant organisational safeguarding, first-aid, off-site visit and emergency procedures
- Canal & River Trust waterway and lock safety guidance where the route is on its network

Monitoring and Review

Review annually and sooner following an accident, incident or near miss; a change to the route or lock structure; a change in the needs of participants; or updated advice, restrictions or local conditions.

Assessor	Samantha Wallace	Date	August 2026
Approver	Kara Dhyan	Date	August 2026