



Risk Assessment

Facts for group leaders carrying out risk assessment

Our health and safety record is excellent. Our parent company, Longleat Enterprises Limited, cooperates closely with the Health and Safety Executive, and the Environmental Health Inspectorate.

We attract about 500,000 visitors annually, of whom half pay to go through the caves and other attractions.

Between 40 and 80 trained staff (depending on time of year) manage the visitors. They include a NEBOSH trained Health and Safety Manager, up to 20 defibrillator trained First Aiders, qualified climbers and cavers, Costa Coffee staff with Food Hygiene qualifications, and a CPC qualified Transport Manager.

We hold £5 million of Public Liability Insurance covered through Bluefin.

All staff are trained in risk assessment and crisis management.

About 20 minor incidents are dealt with by staff each year. No serious health problems have been associated with the sites.

Fire alarms, emergency lighting and a telephone system are laid throughout the site, including in the caves, and all staff are trained in evacuation procedures.

Hazards to consider

You need to consider a number of potential hazards when planning a visit, but all are well controlled and offer a low level risk.

Hazards common to any date out, e.g. risk from traffic, other individuals or food poisoning.

Hazards particular to the environment: slipping on wet floors or stairs in the caves; tripping on stairs inside buildings: banging one's head on cave walls or roofs: tripping on uneven footpaths: over-exertion from walking in hilly country: panic attacks from claustrophobia; acrophobia; risk from falling rocks; falling during unauthorised climbing or from getting recklessly close to cliff edge. These are rare occurrences.

Medical hazards: there is a small risk of contracting Weill's Disease from drinking or being immersed in stagnant water, and of contracting Lyme's Disease from Ticks while walking in long grass. Radon gas is present in the caves but not in sufficient concentration to pose any risk to the occasional visitor.

Hazards associated with supervised on-site X-Sport Adventure Activities – Adventure Caving, Climbing and Abseiling. We have standard Operating Procedures to cover all these and all X-Sport leaders are appropriately trained, assessed and qualified. Our site and Operations are registered with the Adventure Activities Licensing Authority.

See 'Safety Briefing' PDF on our website for more details.

http://www.cheddargorge.co.uk/upload/pdf/Cheddar_PDFs_Safety.pdf