

# Health and safety – risks and precautions

We take every precaution to minimise risk on our sites. However, as with any working sites, there are potential hazards for staff and students. So we ask you to work with us to help us keep everyone safe.

**Your party leader will have overall responsibility for the conduct of all members of your party.**

Your safety is our priority – if the conduct of your party is deemed inappropriate or dangerous in any way, your host has the right to end the tour immediately.

If you'd like to discuss any of this information or to arrange a preliminary visit to the site, please [get in touch](#).

Activity	Hazard(s)	Risk			Our health and safety measures	What we need from you
		Likelihood	Severity	Overall risk		
Travelling on site	Vehicle impact	Low	High	Medium	<p>We have robust traffic management procedures in place, including road closure barriers, speed limits, signage and arrival and departure procedures.</p> <p>We'll provide all visitors with hi-vis vests, which must be worn during the walking tour.</p>	<p>Please read pre-visit documentation carefully.</p> <p>On arrival, please report to your Thames Water host so we're aware you're on site.</p> <p>When exiting your vehicle, children must stay with their teachers and line up away from oncoming traffic.</p> <p>Please keep strictly to paths and within designated walkways.</p> <p>Follow all signage and any instructions from Thames Water staff.</p>
Site visit	Fire	Low	Medium	Low	<p>The education centre meets all required standards for fire safety and has fitted fire doors, alarms and extinguishers.</p> <p>We give a 'toolbox talk', in which we share crucial safety information, including the fire evacuation procedure for the site.</p>	<p>Please be mindful of fire exits and extinguishers and avoid obstructing or covering any during your visit.</p> <p>Ensure all students pay close attention during the toolbox talk and follow all Thames Water staff instructions.</p>
Site tour	Contact with biohazard/hazardous chemicals	Low	Medium	Low	<p>We never spend too long in areas where gas exposure can occur (eg aeration tanks).</p> <p>We ensure digesters, gas holders, etc are viewed from a safe distance (outside the exclusion zone).</p> <p>Your tour leader will always wear gas monitors.</p>	<p>Please make sure everyone washes their hands before eating and drinking and before leaving the site.</p> <p>Students should never leave the tour group or touch any unknown substances unless authorised.</p>

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Site tour – deep water	Drowning and asphyxiation	Low	High	Low	<p>We don't visit unfenced open bodies of water in our tours. These are always viewed from a safe distance (10m).</p> <p>Whenever we invite visitors to view water, it's from behind protected fencing or walls.</p> <p>We have a number of life buoys available around the site.</p>	
Site tour	Noise levels from power tools / machinery	Low	Medium	Low	<p>If construction work is taking place, we'll review the tour and seek an alternative route.</p> <p>We make sure operational staff – particularly those authorising or carrying out any work – know when there are school groups on site.</p>	
Site tour	Electricity	Low	High	Low	<p>Our tour route does not expose visitors to risk of electric shock.</p> <p>All electrical equipment within the classroom is regularly PAT tested.</p>	
Site tour – viewing platforms	Falling from height	Low	Medium	Low	<p>We ensure all flooring grills in raised viewing platforms and stairways are properly fitted, fixed in place and in good condition.</p> <p>We use mesh infill to protect any gaps in railings.</p> <p>We have self-closing gates at the top of stairways.</p>	<p>Travel slowly and carefully on all viewing platforms and stairs.</p> <p>Please make sure everyone wears appropriate footwear.</p> <p>Follow any instructions from staff.</p>
Site tour	Mechanical lifting operations	Low	Medium	Low	<p>If lifting operations are taking place, we'll suspend the tour until we've finished working or amend the tour route to avoid the affected area.</p>	
Site tour	Heavy vehicles and moving machinery	Low	Medium	Low	<p>We keep children away from site traffic and let them view any heavy machinery from a safe distance at a safe vantage point.</p>	
Site tour	Noise	Low	Low	Low	<p>All tour routes are designed to any areas where the noise level exceeds the first action level (80dBA).</p>	
Site tour	Slips, trips and falls	Low	Low	Low	<p>All visitor areas are monitored and checked before any group arrival.</p>	<p>Please make sure everyone wears sensible footwear (no heels or open toes).</p> <p>Always travel slowly and carefully while on site.</p>

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Site tour	Bad weather	Low	Medium	Low	<p>Weather forecasts are monitored. If there is a high risk of snow or ice, the tour will be cancelled in advance.</p> <p>We will cancel the tour if there is snow or ice on the route.</p>	<p>Be sure to check weather and that clothing and footwear is appropriate before travelling to site.</p> <p>Take relevant precautions for the outside tour, eg bringing coats, waterproofs or sun cream, etc.</p>
Site tour	Operational environment hazards	Low	Medium	Low	<p>All our tours follow prescribed routes, clearly identified by painted lines. We check the route for hazards before conducting any tour.</p> <p>Our tour leaders and organisers are authorised professionals familiar with the site and associated hazards.</p> <p>We always give a 'toolbox talk/induction', in which we'll share the behaviour requirements for the tour. We will cancel the tour and return students to the education centre if any behaviour is considered inappropriate.</p> <p>We have well stocked first-aid kits at all our sites.</p>	<p>Please make sure everyone remains with the tour guide and their group at all times during the visit.</p> <p>Students must pay close attention during the toolbox talk and follow the instructions, eg to hold onto handrails when walking up or down stairs and not to run anywhere or touch anything.</p> <p>Schools are responsible for providing a trained first aider, qualified in first aid for children.</p>
Classroom	Classroom hazards	Low	Low	Low	<p>All our self-closing doors are fitted with finger guards or monitored by an adult as children walk through.</p> <p>We provide welfare facilities, including fresh drinking water.</p>	<p>The ratio of adults to children must meet the following criteria – years 10 and below: a ratio of 1 to 8; years 11, 12 and 13: a ratio of 1 to 15.</p> <p>Please bring your own food as we have none available on site.</p>