

Risk Assessment For

**Wookey Hole Caves & Mill
Wookey Hole
Wells
Somerset
BA5 1BB
Tel:01749-672243**

Assessment Undertaken

January 2023

Signed *C Goodchild*
GENERAL MANAGER

Assessment Review

January 2024

Department / Area

CAVES

List Significant Hazards Below

List groups of people who are at risk from the significant hazards identified

List existing controls or note where the information may be found. List risks which are not adequately controlled & the action needed

Uneven/slippery floor in cave

Visitors/staff/contractors

Verbal warnings on all tours before the public go in led by **guides**
Further warnings to be given throughout the tour
Visual warning signs are displayed

Low rocks in cave

Visitors/staff/contractors

Further warnings to be given throughout the tour

People falling into water in chambers 7, 8 and 9

Visitors/contractors

Further warnings to be given throughout the tour

Emergency lights failing to work

Visitors/contractors

Verbal warnings by **guides**
Buoyancy aids to be used by **guides**.
Lights checked by **maintenance department weekly** & recorded
Head guide checks on this
Guides carry torches

Electrocution

Staff / contractors

Electricity in close proximity to water
Water not to be thrown on rocks near lights (e.g. witch, giant etc.)
Only **maintenance department** to work on move or change lamps in the vicinity of water or show lights
Guides may change bulkhead lights & tunnel lights only

Show failing

Visitors/staff/contractors

Except 'trip switches' only **maintenance department** to work on any equipment for the 'show'

Injury whilst working in caves

Staff / contractors

Cave guides to be advised of staff working in caves
No lone working above ground level or in chambers off tour route
No lone working in chambers 7, 8, 9
Guide to check whole caves prior to locking up at night (inc 7, 8, 9)

Emergency Phones Failing

Visitors/staff/contractors

Guides to test each day

Smoke Machine obscuring view of steps or exits and overhanging rocks

Visitors/staff/contractors

Levels of smoke emissions controlled by **maintenance department**

Psychosomatic, panic, asthma attack or Claustrophobia

Visitors

Visitors monitored by **guides**

Risk of injury from working on rock face & above entrance

Visitors/staff/contractors

Wear hardhat & boots
No lone working
Work out of season, where possible

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VALLEY

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Falling from Swing Bridge in Valley

Staff

Care to be taken on Bridge

Falling into Canal

Visitors

White line on edge of path

Falling into rivers

Visitors

Fencing & Warning signs on edge of paths
Buoyancy Aids along pathways.

Falling from Dragon Seat

Visitors

Signs erected round Dragon warning visitors not to climb

Falling from Dinosaurs & Mounds

Visitors

Signs erected round Dragon warning visitors not to climb

Falling into Ponds or river in Dino Park

Visitors

Fencing & Warning signs on edge of paths
Buoyancy Aids along pathways

Cleaning canal/slippery slabs

Staff

Wear boots with reasonable grip
Make sure access ladder is tied in.
Always enter canal with **two people** in radio contact

Working under rock face

Staff

Wear hard hats and toe protectors
Radio to be carried by one person

Working on banks

Staff

Wear harness by fast flowing water
Radio to be carried by one person

Working with mechanical machinery

Staff

Wear day glow type clothes. Never work out of site of driver.
Radio to be carried by one person

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MILL

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controlled & the action needed

Cross contamination from dirty water in
hands on vat

Changing light bulbs

Safe use of Chemicals used in cleaning

Squashing of fingers in door Vending
machine

Staff / Visitors

Staff

Staff

Staff

Draining of water in the morning and re-filling
with fresh water. [Guides](#)

Correct use of steps (Chairs NEVER to be used)

COSHH Sheets to be followed

Training.
Care in refilling and closing door

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MILL SOFT PLAY

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Falling on entering

Falling against metal supports

Injury falling off slide

Injury falling on bridge

Risk of children bumping each other

Infection through cuts & wounds

Castle becoming unsafe

Visitors

Visitors

Visitors

Visitors

Visitors

Visitors

Visitors

Safety mats on floor

All supports are securely covered with padding
Ties etc for padding to be checked weekly by **maintenance department**, and recoded in log book

Safety mats on floor

Bridge & both entrance & exit made from padded material

All surfaces protected with padded material.
Parents / guardians can see whole castle
Signs asking for shoes to be removed
Signs insisting all children are supervised at all times

Guide on paper vat will clear body fluids immediately.

Every Monday morning **maintenance department** check castle for safety and record in log book

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Falling on entering

Visitors

Safety mats on floor

Falling against metal supports

Visitors

All supports are securely covered with padding
Ties etc for padding to be checked weekly by **maintenance department**, and recoded in log book

Injury falling off slide

Visitors

Safety mats on floor

Injury falling on bridge

Visitors

Bridge & both entrance & exit made from padded material

Injury falling on rope walkway

Visitors

Ropeway secured at both ends, and both sides
Ropeway has netting on both sides to prevent falling off

Risk of children bumping each other

Visitors

All surfaces protected with padded material.
Parents / guardians can see whole castle
Signs asking for shoes to be removed
Signs insisting all children are supervised at all times

Infection through cuts & wounds

Visitors

Guide on paper vat will clear body fluids immediately.

Castle becoming unsafe

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MILL THEATRE SPACE

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Falling from stage

Staff / visitors

Perimeter and steps to stage are clearly defined with white tape.
Drapes round side and rear of stage are fireproofed.
(There is staging behind the drapes).

Falling tripping in back stage area

Staff / Visitors

Area has adequate low lighting and a fire exit (which does not require crossing the stage).
Cables are all in the roof. There are no trailing cables

Injury during show

Staff / Visitors

Performers on stage are carrying out rehearsed performances
Members of the public may be invited on stage to take part in the show.
They will be supervised through out the time they are on stage.

Theatre lights falling from roof

Staff/ Visitors

All lights hook clamped and safety chained

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MILL PIRATES AQUA BLASTER

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Risk of electrocution

Staff / Visitors

Electrical supply isolated with RCD
Electrical supply not visible or able to be hit with water cannons

Legionellas Disease

Staff / Visitors

Water Thermometer to be purchased
At 2pm every day the water temperature to be taken and recorded in a book (**Penny Pier Staff**)
Every morning **Penny Pier Staff** to check unit and remove any debris
If on any day temperature is 20 degrees C or above a biocide will be added (**Penny Pier Staff**)
Every Monday morning during summer months water to be completely drained and refilled (**Penny Pier Staff**)

Risk of drowning

Visitors

Signs say children should not be left unattended in this area
Penny Pier Staff to regularly patrol area

Risk of falling into nearby canal

Visitors

Signs say children should not be left unattended in this area
Penny Pier Staff to regularly patrol area

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PAPER MAKING

List Significant Hazards Below

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Injury from Glazing machine

Staff

Avoid solitary working.
Care must be taken to feed zinc sheets in correctly.
Only Trained **Staff** over 16 to operate.

Injury from Dry press

Staff

Avoid solitary working.
Care must be taken when placing sheets/hard boards in machine.
Only Trained **Staff** over 16 to operate.

Injury from Guillotine

Staff

Avoid solitary working.
Safety guard feature must be working.
Only Trained **Staff** over 16 to operate. .

Dust

Staff

Hoover regularly.
Wear protective masks supplied

Lifting/moving packages

Staff

Manual handling training to be organised for all staff. Until trained seek advice from line manager.

Slipping on Steps in drying loft

Staff

Install handrail

Moving raw materials (e.g.; 180kg bales of cotton)

Staff

Avoid solitary working
Keep work area neat and tidy

Carrying wet paper from vat floor to drying loft

Staff

Avoid solitary working
Prop open doors

Injury from wet press

Staff

Only Trained **Staff** over 16 to operate.

Injury from Vat/hog and pump

Staff

Only Trained **Staff** over 16 to operate.

Injury from Stuff chest

Staff

Caution whilst cleaning out.
Use of 'Danger Do Not Operate' signs
No lone working

Injury using Beater

Staff

Only Trained **Staff** over 16 to operate.
Use of 'Danger Do Not Operate' signs when cleaning out or checking beater roll
No lone working whilst checking / cleaning

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Slippery floor in vat room

Staff

Periodic replacement of wooden slats

Injury from Paper finishing machine

Staff

Only Trained **Staff** over 16 to operate. .
Room needs to be kept well lit.
Protective bars in place

Injury from Post sliding on railway

Staff

Steel toe-capped boots

Ladders in drying loft

Staff

No lone working
Replacement of any faulty ladders

Repetitive strain injury

Staff

Swap workstations

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CAR PARKS & TOILETS

List Significant Hazards Below

Car parks - visitors stepping off of grass. Footwear becomes slippery on tarmac and pathways. Moving vehicles.

Toilets – across whole site
Wet floors, contaminated materials, hygiene

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Staff / visitors /contractors

Staff/visitors/contractors

List existing controls or note where the information may be found. List risks which are not adequately controlled & the action needed

All staff wear day glow type clothing when on duty.
All staff are made aware of the dangers of moving vehicles in and around the car parks. Staff never to stand behind moving vehicle. There are paths on site, which both staff and public can use to avoid vehicular traffic. All roads and paths, which have hard surfaces, are kept clear of twigs, grass cuttings and general debris.
The edges of steps are all lined with paint to assist visitors and staff to see the edges. A rail has been provided on the path from the grass car park to the top car park by the restaurant and the path stones treated to give more grip.
Appropriate hazard/warning signs erected.

Warning signs, regular checks throughout the day with staff sign-off sheets. Reported incidents are prioritised and dealt with immediately. Cleaning products are stored in locked cabinets.