

Stephenson Steam Railway Hazard Identification

Updated June 2026



STEPHENSON
STEAM
RAILWAY
NORTH TYNESIDE



Please note:

- This is **not** a risk assessment, the group leader should carry out a risk assessment”
- In the case of an emergency please contact a member of staff
- North East Museums highly recommends that group leaders conduct preliminary visits
- Group leaders should take the behaviour and ability of their group into consideration when compiling a risk assessment
- It is the responsibility of the group leader to monitor the behaviour and safety of their group.
- This Hazard Identification highlights the everyday risks that groups may incur. Please telephone Stephenson Steam Railway, 0191 277 7135 to enquire about possible building work taking place or hazards in temporary exhibitions.

Hazard identification	Risk and to whom	Existing control measures set up by North East Museums	Further action to be taken by the school / group leader (add own comments)
<p>Museum Grounds</p> <p>Vehicles moving past the main entrance (shared access to others groups occasionally)</p> <p>Miniature railway Area</p> <p>Uneven paths</p> <p>Litter, hazardous plants/ materials on pathway</p>	<p>All staff and visitors</p> <p>Being hit by moving vehicle</p> <p>Issue of children trying to climb in this area</p> <p>Trips, falls and injuries from uneven paths</p> <p>Trips, falls and injuries on uneven paths around site.</p> <p>Tripping on litter and plants in Museum grounds. Contact with animal poo.</p>	<p>Vehicle entry gates closed and traffic barriers in place.</p> <p>Area is fenced off to all visitors.</p> <p>Children and teachers advised to take care on uneven ground and told never to run on the site.</p> <p>Litter and hazardous plants removed as far as possible. Site checked on the day of visit for hazardous objects on paths. Dogs prohibited from Woodland area. Children advised to tell adult if they see hazardous material and not to pick it up. Dangerous areas fenced off.</p>	<p>Adult supervision at all times.</p> <p>Children to be supervised at all times by school staff and to escort the children into and out of the building.</p> <p>Children to be supervised at all times.</p> <p>Sensible appropriate footwear to be worn. Children to be supervised at all times.</p> <p>Children to be supervised at all times.</p>

	Standing on glass, nails in outdoor areas	Children and teachers advised to wear suitable clothing and footwear.	
Step access to Cinder Path	Tripping, slipping on stairs to cinder path	Children instructed to take care on steps and told not to run. Steps monitored, cleared of snow or ice and gritted. Steps closed off to public in extreme weather conditions.	Children to be supervised at all times
Meadow area- Butterfly mounds, stumpery	Cuts or injuries from climbing on these areas	Children not to climb on mounds or stumpery and advised to take care near these areas. Children should keep to path.	Children to be supervised at all times.
Fungi	Poisoning from ingestion	Children not to touch or to try and eat any of the fungi or any of the other plants on the woodland walk.	Children to be supervised at all times
Tree samplings in canes	Injuries to eyes	Children advised to keep away from tree samplings to allow them to grow and not to run near them (otherwise they may poke their eyes on canes).	Children to be supervised at all times
Volunteers working on site	Injuries and accidents from picking up and trying to use tools	Volunteers told not to leave tools around on areas where groups will be working. Areas where work is taking place to be fenced off.	Children to be supervised at all times

<p>Moving around museum grounds</p>	<p>Cuts or stings from thorns, sharp plants, stinging insects.</p>	<p>Sharp, stinging plants and stinging insects pointed out to children to help identify and told not to touch these. Children told to ask first before picking something up if they don't know what it is.</p>	<p>Children to be supervised at all times</p>
	<p>Exposed to weather conditions</p>	<p>Children advised to dress appropriately for weather conditions- warm coat, hat, gloves, sturdy footwear, sun hat suncream.</p>	<p>Children advised to dress appropriately for weather conditions- warm coat, hat, gloves, sturdy footwear, sun hat, suncream, extra water in hot weather</p>
	<p>Slipping into pond</p>	<p>Children instructed to keep to the paths and not to run near the pond. Fence around pond.</p>	<p>Children to be supervised at all times</p>
<p>Museum artefacts on display</p>	<p>Cuts, injuries from climbing on artefacts</p>	<p>Children told not to climb on artefacts, advised to take care near artefacts Trained first aid staff on site. First Aid kit in Museum.</p>	<p>Children to be supervised at all times and told not to climb on artefacts.</p>
	<p>Injury from overhanging branches and tripping over brambles</p>	<p>Staff and volunteers maintain foliage and cut back. Pre-visit route check carried out. Trained first aid staff on site. First Aid kit in Museum.</p>	<p>Children to be supervised at all times.</p>

	<p>Children getting lost/wandering off.</p> <p>Accidents involving engines, on the lines outside. Danger from railway platform, accidents with moving trains.</p>	<p>Site gates kept shut during school visit.</p> <p>Children kept away from platform, moving engines and trains unless supervised. Children and adults told to keep away from the platform edge.</p>	<p>Children to be supervised at all times. Teachers responsible for head counts</p> <p>Children kept away from platform, moving engines and trains unless supervised.</p> <p>Ensure children stand back from platform edge.</p>
Woodland activities-Mini beast collecting, making pictures, sculptures and scavenger hunts with natural materials	<p>Risk of stings, bites, cuts from insects or sharp, thorny plants Contact with animal faeces</p>	<p>Sharp, stinging plants, other hazardous plants and stinging insects pointed out to children to help identify and told not to touch these. Children told to ask first before picking something up if they don't know what it is. Children told to avoid animal faeces. Dogs prohibited from Woodland area. Children instructed to wash hands thoroughly with soap after activities</p>	<p>Children supervised at all times</p>
<p>Reception/Lunch area-</p> <p>Slips and falls from spillages.</p>	<p>All staff and visitors</p> <p>Slips and falls from spillages.</p>	<p>Spills cleared up as soon as possible, and /or hazard notices put in place. Children told to avoid walking in area of spillage</p>	<p>Children to be supervised at all times.</p> <p>Ensure children avoid spillage areas. Notify staff of any spillages during lunch.</p>

Automatic doors	Children walking out of automatic doors.	Trained first aid staff on site. First Aid kit in Museum. Children advised to keep away from doors.	Children to be supervised at all times.
Education Room Use of craft tools and materials	All staff and visitors. Cuts from craft tools e.g. scissors	All sharp and dangerous objects stored away from children and materials used under supervision. Children instructed how to use tools and materials safely.	Children to be supervised at all times.
Opening doors/windows	Fingers trapped in windows or doors.	Locks on windows, children advised to take care opening doors.	Children to be supervised at all times.
Handling artefacts	Injury from handling of historical artefacts, heavy objects sharp edges.	Children instructed how to handle objects in a safe way. Trained first aid staff on site. First Aid kit in Education Room.	Ensure children handle objects carefully.
Museum Interior- Large engines Uneven surfaces	All staff and visitors Falls and trips on uneven surface or steps, including bumping into large engines.	Uneven surfaces. Children and visitors advised to take care, to not run and to be aware of large engines and oil patches prior to entering the museum on led visits. Any physical access requirements are clarified when making a booking. Adults and children told not to climb on engines.	Children to be supervised at all times. Classes divided into small groups when moving around the museum. Notify museum staff of access requirements when making a booking.

	<p>Accidents from climbing on engines.</p> <p>Damage to clothes/skin from oil on train surfaces.</p> <p>Cold environment.</p>	<p>Visitors advised to wear suitable clothing and footwear for museum conditions.</p>	<p>Children supervised at all times. Ensure children do not climb on engines.</p> <p>Appropriate clothing and footwear to be worn.</p>
Fire safety	<p>Panic and confusion on hearing an alarm</p>	<p>Specified meeting point in museum car park arranged with school.</p> <p>First Aider and First Aid Kit available at all times.</p>	<p>Adult supervision</p>