

**FOR GROUPS VISITING COMBE MILL:
ADVICE FOR PREPARING A RISK ASSESSMENT FOR THE FOREST TRAIL, PICNIC
AREA, MEADOW AND POND DIPPING**

This information is for Teachers/Leaders/Adults in charge of groups to complete their own risk assessments.

ARRIVAL

- Coaches can park outside Combe Mill. There may be other traffic visiting / delivering to the other businesses on the same site.
- There is a unisex access toilet at ground level in the Tea Room accessed from outside.

PICNIC AREA

- This is next to the River Evenlode which flows fast and as it bends around the Mill area the depth is above head height.
- The river banks are fenced off. Please advise your group to stay away from the river banks and not to climb over the fences or ropes.
- The gate onto the bridge is locked. Please do not allow your group to go on the bridge unless supervised by a Mill volunteer.

MEADOW - 500 metres across private land

- The children will cross a small footbridge into a flat area of commercial forestry and meadow where the path is rough, uneven and they will walk through long grass.

THE FOREST TRAIL – 1.5km circular walk on permissive and public footpaths

- When visiting the children and staff need to be aware that the ground areas are rough dirt paths often with no defined path.
- It can get muddy in wet weather, especially at the pond so we recommend wellington boots or suitable waterproof boots.
- We advise that the children bring with them a water proof jacket and wear warm, old, robust clothes.
- There will be stinging nettles in various places, overhanging tree branches and brambles and insects so children may wish to bring sting relief and insect repellent.
- A basic first aid kit and mobile phone is carried by the Mill volunteer leading groups on the Forest trail.
- **Visiting groups are responsible for bringing their own First Aider – a trained adult - to provide First Aid if required.**
- Early on in the Trail the path becomes very steep and passes through dense commercial forest. There may be a lot of sticks and roots on the ground and the path is rough underfoot.
- All parts of the Trail can become muddy and slippery if wet but this steep area can become particularly slippery after and during rain. There is a handrail to hold onto while walking up the trail.
- Parts of the trail are public footpath so members of the public may be present walking with or without dogs.
- Please advise your group that they must stay with the Mill volunteer leaders and accompanying adults at all times on the Forest Trail.
- Combe Mill carries out its own risk assessment before taking groups on the trail – if you require any information from this risk assessment contact the Mill.

POND DIPPING

- Access to the pond is controlled at all times during the visit.
- Pupils are supervised at all times: adult to child ratio determined by age, recommended 1:4 for KS2.
- **Children with cuts on their hands must have them covered with waterproof plasters or wear suitable gloves, they must avoid ingestion of water and all children must wash their hands after the activity especially before eating.**
- **There is a small risk of leptospirosis (Weil's disease). Anyone experiencing flu-like symptoms after contact with fresh water should see their doctor immediately.**
- Edges that are open for access for pond dipping are gently sloping and well defined.
- A protective barrier fence and platform is provided for the steeper slope – please ask your group to stay on the platform.
- The pond is checked before the activity to ensure it is shallow enough for a wading rescue.
- No access is allowed during flood conditions.

Contact Information

Combe Mill, Blenheim Palace Sawmills Combe, Long Hanborough WITNEY, Oxfordshire, OX29 8ET.

OS Grid reference SP 41650 15050 Landranger map 164

Email: Meducation@combemill.org Website: <http://www.combemill.org>

There is a telephone at the mill (01993 358694) and mobile phone reception can sometimes be poor but depends on your service provider.

Nearest A&E: John Radcliffe Hospital (9.0 miles): Headley Way, Headington, Oxford, Oxfordshire, OX3 9DU Tel: 01865 741166

Local Minor Injuries Centre: Witney Community Hospital, Welch Way, Witney, Oxfordshire, OX28 6JJ Tel: 01993 209458

Local Surgery: 56 Churchill Way, Long Hanborough, Witney, OX29 8JL Tel 01993 881330

Local public transport numbers: Stagecoach 01865 772250

Local accessible taxi numbers:

Oxford 0776 768 5257

Witney 01993 709188

Witney 01993 771122

Combe 01993 891431

Combe 07713 214483

Woodstock 01993 240005

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