

River Bourne Community Farm Health and Safety Policy



Introduction

River Bourne Community Farm has overall responsibility for health and safety in the organisation, and for ensuring that it fulfils all its legal responsibilities.

River Bourne Community Farm will work in a way that tries, to ensure that risks to employees, volunteers, service users and visitors are adequately managed at all times.

We recognise our responsibilities under the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 and associated regulations and will observe all relevant regulations and codes of practice made under it.

The commitment to health and safety is a management responsibility and it is the duty of our Directors and Managers to uphold this policy and to provide the necessary funds and resources to implement it.

River Bourne Community Farm will provide and maintain safe and healthy working conditions and environment for all employees, volunteers, and service users, plus any other people who are directly affected by our activities such as members of the public at our events.

This responsibility will be delegated to a named employee for specific events or activities, who will ensure the policy is upheld. They will be named in advance and noted on all relevant risk assessments. All volunteers involved will be made aware of who is responsible for health and safety.

Responsibilities

1. The Farm Directors are responsible for the implementation and monitoring of health and safety policies and making changes where necessary.
2. All accidents or unsafe incidents will be investigated by the Directors or Manager as soon as possible.
3. River Bourne Community Farm is responsible for:
 - Assessing the risk to the health and safety of employees and visitors and identifying what measures are needed to comply with its health and safety obligations.
 - Providing and maintaining equipment, and systems of work that are safe and without risk to health.
 - Ensuring that equipment is safe and well maintained.

- Providing information, instruction, training and supervision in safe working methods and procedures.
- Providing and maintaining a healthy and safe place of work, including safe ways of entering and leaving.
- Encouraging employees to co-operate to ensure safe and healthy conditions and systems of work by discussion and effective joint consultation.
- Establishing emergency procedures as required.

Staff and Volunteer Responsibilities

River Bourne Community Farm employees and volunteers will ensure that:

1. They are aware of the contents of this health and safety policy
2. They comply with the policy.
3. They take care of themselves and others who may be affected by their actions or omissions
4. They report all accidents, or unsafe situations, and anything which could have led to an accident or felt unsafe to the Directors or their Manager at once.
5. They record accidents at work in an accident book located in *a place where it can be readily accessed by employees and be available for inspection.*
6. If the Directors/Manager is not present, they should report the incident to the most senior member of staff present, who will report it to the Directors/Manager as soon as possible.
7. They are aware of all fire procedures for the environment in which they are working
8. If they identify anything which they think could be in any way unsafe, they will report it to the Directors or their Manager.

Risk Assessments

The Directors/Manager will ensure that *all potential hazards present* in the environments in which the operations take place and *any potential hazards associated with delivering the defined scoped of operations* are assessed in line with the current relevant legislation.

Risk Assessments will consider:

1. The nature of the hazard
2. Identify who might be harmed if exposed to the hazard and how they might be harmed.
3. The likelihood of harm and how significant that harm will be to specific individuals and other generally.

4. What suitable and sufficient controls are needed to prevent exposure to the hazard or mitigate the risk of harm to a reasonable and acceptable level in line with any legislation or regulations.

Assessments will be reviewed when there is:

- A change in legislation
- A change of premises or change to the environment in which the operations take place
- A significant change in the scope of operations and associated tasks are carried out
- The introduction of new equipment or any other reason which makes original assessment not valid.

Training

To comply with legislation and to promote the health, safety and welfare of staff and volunteers, health and safety training will be provided as follows:

1. At induction.
2. On transfer or promotion to new duties.
3. On the introduction of new equipment.
4. When changes are made to systems of work.
5. When training needs are identified during risk assessments.

Resolving Health & Safety Issues

1. Any employee, service user or volunteer with a health and safety concern must first raise it with their manager or the Farm Directors.
2. If, after investigation, the issue is not corrected in a reasonable time, or the manager decides that no action is required but the employee or volunteer is not satisfied with this, the employee or volunteer may then refer the matter to the Health and Safety Executive.

Monitoring and Evaluation

This policy will be monitored and reviewed annually by the Farm Directors/Managers to ensure that that risks to employees, volunteers, service users and visitors are minimised at all times.

Name	Role	Signature	Date
Sara-Jane Hancock	Manager		05/08/2024
Peter Hardingham	Farm Director		05/08/2024
Tony Gumbrell	Farm Director		05/08/2024

Last reviewed: August 2024
Next review due: August 2025