

Risk Assessment

Holt Hall Field Studies Centre

Digging Deep

Location

Holt Hall

Risks

The following risks are applicable to anyone taking part in this activity.

- Injuries from improper use of soil augers and other equipment.
- Cuts from broken test tubes
- Risks associated with using chemicals barium sulfate and universal indicator solution, see CLEAPSS Hazcards 10B and 32.
- Exposure to Tetanus virus

Control Measures

- Young people must be shown how to use all equipment safely. Soil Augers must be held vertically with the point downwards and young people must not run with a soil auger.
- Test tubes must either be held or in a test tube rack, never laid on a desk. Young people should be told to take care when inserting bungs as pushing too hard may cause the test tube to break. Broken glass must be placed in the sharp objects box and not in the bin. KS2 children should not wash up test tubes.
- Barium Sulfate is low risk (CLEAPSS Hazcard 10B).
- Indicator solution is highly flammable. No source of ignition should be present in the lab. Young people should be told how to use indicator solution safely. If universal indicator solution gets onto skin it should be washed off. Young people must wear safety glasses when using universal indicator solution (CLEAPSS Hazcard 32).
- Indicator solution and Barium Sulfate should only be accessible to young people when a member of Holt Hall teaching staff is present. When not in use they should be locked in chemical cupboard in prep lab.
- Young people may not eat anything at any time during this lesson.
- All young people should wash their hands with soap at the end of this lesson.
- Cuts on hands must be covered with a plaster. Young people who are allergic to plasters may wear a glove. Most young people will have been vaccinated against tetanus but if a young person becomes ill within a few days of a Holt Hall visit, the doctor must be told that the young person has been in close contact with soil.

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