



1. Summary

This document is written as an aid to undertaking a risk assessment prior to a visitor trip to Barrow Hill Roundhouse. It is intended to provide brief details of the site and the nature of the hazards therein, it is not intended as a copy and paste exercise.

Group visitors – and other visitors where work will be carried out – are required to undertake a risk assessment prior to their visit. We ask that these assessments are submitted at least one week prior to the date of the visit. If your visit is part of a sequence of visits there is no need for a repeated assessment unless any of your circumstances change.

Depending on the nature of your visit it is highly likely that you will be accompanied at all times by a competent host who will act both as your guide and take responsibility for your safety. However, we still require you to consider the risks and take responsibility for any controls required.

Barrow Hill is a working museum which is split into two distinct areas – a museum site and a commercial site.

Both areas contain broadly similar hazards for you to consider, these are shown below.

We want you to enjoy your visit and to come back again – the following is not intended to cause alarm but merely to guide you towards hazards to consider.

If you have any queries please contact learning@barrowhill.org , or call 01246 475554 and speak to someone who will be able to help.

2. Hazards to be considered

Hazards at Barrow Hill fall into two general categories; 'standard' hazards and railway specific ones.

2.1 Standard hazards

The site is old, the infrastructure is (broadly) Victorian. In the Roundhouse the floor is uneven and made of a variety of materials – the surface conditions may be wet, may be dusty and can change quickly. Between the rails are wooden pit boards which are slippery when wet – they will not stand the load of a vehicle and will collapse if driven over.

The floor height can change in the length of a footstep.

The lighting in the Roundhouse is good but shadows are common and there are dark areas.

The Roundhouse is a steel and brick built structure which echos and reflects loud noises effectively.

The Roundhouse is a working building with a workshop attached. There may be any number of 'industrial' activities taking place; metal cutting, grinding, welding, etc., wood working, painting and cleaning are common.

Fire safety is good and extinguishers prevalent. There are no fire alarms in the Roundhouse although there are in the 'new' areas. Emergency exits are good and emergency lighting is provided.

First aiders are on site and first aid kits are provided.

Outside the Roundhouse ground conditions may be uneven and trip hazards abound.

Surface water is rare but cannot be ruled out in winter months.

2.2 Specific hazards

Wheelchair access is broadly good but with plenty of potential for wheel traps. In the Roundhouse most roads have wheelstops sticking out of the floor which are cast iron and immovable. The turntable has a metal deck which is often contaminated with oil and water and is slippery underfoot. There is a pit around the turntable which is normally fenced off but may from time to time be open.

Although unlikely, there may be rail vehicle movements during your visit, trains are big, heavy and cannot 'stop on a sixpence'.

Locomotives of all types can be noisy and can move without warning. Exhaust emissions can be harmful and may damage clothing. Diesel engines may start without warning and a steam locomotive which appears to be simmering gently may suddenly 'blow off' and noisily emit steam.

Rail vehicles are normally dirty, even the clean ones. Buffers and wheels are often covered in grease – and buffers stick out from the front and rear of rail vehicles.

In the commercial site the work activity is increased massively, it is occupied by tenants who expect to be able to carry out their business unhindered by visitors. If your visit is to include these areas we will brief you on any special requirements.

3. Risk assessment

A risk assessment is intended to provoke a thought process on *what* hazards exist and *how* they might be controlled, it is not a paperwork exercise.

The HSE website contains useful information on how to carry out a risk assessment.

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/risk/index.htm>