

RISK ASSESSMENT – BUSHCRAFT ACTIVITIES

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

Risk assessment covers the risks which could be encountered during bushcraft activities. Current venue is Trewern Outdoor Education Centre, in Cusop, near Hay-on-Wye, HR3 5RF.

QUANTITATIVE SITE RISK ASSESSMENT

The severity of potential risks has been rated on a worst-case basis, on a scale from 1-5 (5 meaning severe life-limiting injury or death). The likelihood of an accident arising from such hazards has been similarly rated (1=very unlikely if instructions are followed, 5=very likely even if instructions are followed). The two values have then been multiplied to give a risk rating on a scale from 1-25. A Low risk is 1-8, Medium risk 9-16 and High risk 17-25. A score of greater than 10 is considered to present an unacceptable risk.

Persons at risk: The following Hazards could have implications for all people in the area in which the field work is carried out including staff, students and members of the public.

HAZARD AND RISK	EXISTING CONTROL MEASURES	RESIDUAL RISK LEVEL (FORMAT SEVERITY X LIKELIHOOD = TOTAL)			FURTHER ACTION NECESSARY – INCLUDE SEASONAL OR TIMING CONSIDERATIONS.
		LOW	MED	HIGH	
GROUP MANAGEMENT					
Hazard: Covid-19	<p>Participants with Covid-19 symptoms, those that have been contacted by test and trace or those otherwise required to self-isolate or quarantine should not attend. Anyone that displays Covid-19 symptoms whilst on activity may be asked to leave.</p> <p>Social distancing will be observed as much as possible; instructor will limit close face-to-face contact with other group members.</p> <p>Participants will be reminded that transmission risk may increase with exertion. This will require dynamic risk assessment.</p> <p>Face coverings may be worn at the discretion of each group member, but are not required when outdoors.</p>		5x2=10		<p>As restrictions change, other measures may need to be put in place. Groups will be notified of such changes as soon as possible.</p> <p>Groups are encouraged to stay up to date with current guidance in their country of residence and act accordingly. This risk assessment is based on the guidance for England.</p>

<p>Risk: infection and/or infection of others</p>	<p>Where the instructor needs to offer assistance and therefore needs to approach closer than 2m a face covering will be worn by the instructor.</p> <p>If a situation arises where first aid is required, self-treatment will be suggested at first, but where this is not possible, first aider will wear a face covering and gloves, and may cover the participant's face</p> <p>When returning equipment, it will be wiped with antibacterial/antiviral wipes or quarantined for 72 hours.</p> <p>Frequent hand washing for at least 20 seconds is recommended. Hand washing facilities/hand gel will be readily available. Participants are welcome to bring and use their own.</p> <p>The booked group will be assigned specific toilet facilities to use throughout their visit, which will be thoroughly cleaned after the session. Group members are asked to sanitise surfaces they have touched after use.</p> <p>Should <i>any</i> person taking part in the activity develop Covid-19 symptoms up to 2 days* after the activity, they will notify the other parties present, including activity leaders, as soon as possible, such that they can take the necessary steps. We may keep records to facilitate contact tracing, which will be destroyed after 14 days.</p>				<p>Instructors will carry out regular lateral flow testing.</p> <p>*this is an English requirement. Welsh guidance is 14 days, and will apply to Welsh residents.</p>
<p>Hazard: adults working with children Risk: child protection breach</p>	<p>Any adults leading sessions with young people to be DBS checked and undergo regular safeguarding training.</p>	<p>2x1=2</p>			
<p>Hazard: medical conditions Risk: medical emergency</p>	<p>Medical conditions, such as asthma, allergies, disabilities, recent surgeries/injuries and long-term illnesses should be discussed with parents/guardians and/or young people before activity. Such information will be treated in strictest confidence and only shared in cases of medical emergency. Any medicines/treatments to be carried on activity.</p>		<p>5x2=10</p>		<p>It is imperative that severe medical conditions and mobility issues are discussed as soon as possible during planning to ensure that suitable sites and activities are used.</p>

<p>Hazard: an accident requiring first aid</p> <p>Risk: unprepared, lack of consent</p>	<p>Instructors have suitable first aid training for outdoor activities in remote locations and carry first aid equipment appropriate for the activity. Parents/guardians or a nominated representative will be present throughout and should be able to give medical consent if required. Consent forms will be required for all young people under 16 for record keeping. Be aware of areas with no mobile phone coverage.</p>	5x1=5			Activity cannot go ahead without appropriate consent. Group will be briefed on emergency procedures (which will be visible around the site) in case of injury to instructor.
HYGIENE					
<p>Hazard: lack of toilet facilities</p> <p>Risk: group members unprepared.</p>	<p>Group members should be made aware of toilet facilities where available. Give clear guidance for toileting where facilities are not available. Parents may need to accompany young people.</p>	1x2=2			
<p>Hazard: handling organic matter, soil, water.</p> <p>Risk: having soiled hands especially if consuming food or drink.</p>	<p>Explain the risk and give hand gel, or hand washing facilities to group members after activities and/or before being allowed to eat.</p>	1x3=3			
BIOLOGICAL					
<p>Hazard: contact with insects and/or plants.</p> <p>Risk: sting/bites, allergic reaction/anaphylaxis</p>	<p>Instructor to brief when exposure to hazardous insects or plants is possible. Staff should be aware of any individual medical conditions and carry an EpiPen where necessary. Instructors should ensure any medications are carried by the relevant people. See also foraging section.</p>		5x2=10		EpiPen only to be administered by an approved adult.
WEATHER					
<p>Hazard: changing weather conditions.</p> <p>Risk: group unprepared for conditions which may arise.</p>	<p>Group members advised of appropriate clothing and footwear for the activity. Waterproofs should generally be carried if not worn.</p>	4x2=8			<p>Check weather forecast before going into the field. Ensure that students and staff have the appropriate clothing and footwear. If conditions change then amend or curtail activity.</p>
<p>Hazard: group members getting cold and/or wet for prolonged periods of time.</p> <p>Risk: hypothermia</p>	<p>Groups should be warned and should be wearing appropriate clothing to reflect the risk. Responsible adults must watch for any sign of deterioration of members of the group. Staff should carry individual survival bags and safety shelter, spare clothing recommended.</p>	4x2=8			
<p>Hazard: hot/sunny weather.</p> <p>Risk: sunburn and/or heatstroke</p>	<p>Groups should be warned about the risk and should wear appropriate clothing, sun-block and carry water. Adequate supplies of sun-block, drink and protective clothing must be carried. The leader must ensure these are used where necessary. Plenty of shade available.</p>	3x2=6			
TERRAIN/ENVIRONMENT					

Hazard: uneven ground Risk: slips, trips and falls resulting in accident or injury.	Group members warned at specific sites of uneven surfaces and particular hazards, such as around the fire circle. Students should wear appropriate footwear: wellies or hiking boots recommended. Instructors will always carry a first aid kit.		3x3=9		
Hazard: low hanging branches Risk: walking into them, eye and/or head injuries	Groups should be briefed about low hanging branches and warned not to run through wooded areas. Particular care will be needed when working around such trees.	5x1=5			
Hazard: hung branches/dead wood Risk: falling on to a participant, serious injury	On arrival, activity leader will check the area for hung up branches and where it is safe to do so, attempt to remove them. When this is not possible, the area below hung branches should be kept clear, especially in windy conditions	5x1=5			It may be necessary to cordon off area under such branches
TRANSPORT					
Hazard: vehicles when crossing the road or walking on the pavement. Risk: accident or injury.	Need for careful supervision. Pavements must be used where possible, and in their absence, groups walk single file, going with the flow of traffic. There will be a responsible adult at each end of the group. Where road crossings are not available, students should only cross when directed by a responsible adult.	4x2=8			
Hazard: other vehicles when entering or leaving transport vehicles, or when parked. Risk: risk of accidents and injury to group members.	Vigilance will be required in car parking areas, and may be supervised by the instructor.	5x1=5			

ACTIVITY SPECIFIC ASSESSMENTS

HAZARD AND RISK	EXISTING CONTROL MEASURES	RESIDUAL RISK LEVEL (FORMAT SEVERITY X LIKELIHOOD = TOTAL)			FURTHER ACTION NECESSARY – INCLUDE SEASONAL OR TIMING CONSIDERATIONS.
		LOW	MED	HIGH	
Hazard: moving/handling heavy/large objects Risk: injury to back, strains, bruises, cuts, crushed fingers.	Equipment is moved by the correct number of people for its weight and size. Group will be briefed on correct lifting technique. When carrying anything for a significant distance, route should be checked for obstacles, which should be moved or avoided. Good communication and spatial awareness are essential.	3x2=6			

<p>Hazard: collecting firewood</p> <p>Risk: cuts, stings, bruising</p>	<p>Participants warned of risks from stinging plants and insects. Area of collection to be defined, such that nettle/thistle/bramble patches can be avoided. Fallen dead wood to be used, fencing and pallets etc. should be avoided. Activity leader will brief participants of suitable types & sizes of fuel –wood should snap easily.</p> <p>Participants supervised throughout.</p>	<p>3x2=6</p>			
<p>Hazard: building and lighting a fire</p> <p>Risk: burns</p>	<p>Instructor will build and light a demo fire, discussing risks, and how to manage them, especially with regards to the firefighting tools to be used. Demonstration of respect position for working around fire.</p> <p>Fire lighting area to be designated and checked in advance for further combustible materials and if necessary renovated. Only small fires/tinder balls to be lit by the participants, which will be scraped into demo/cooking fire at the end of the activity.</p> <p>Participants will be briefed on treatment of burns. Fire-lighting specific first aid pack to be carried by instructor/trained first-aider – includes burn gels. Water carrier to be at site of activity to treat burns. All participants need to be aware of others working around them and leave space as necessary.</p>	<p>4x2=8</p>			<p>Additional checks should be made on windy days, as this could spread the effects of flames and sparks further. Fires may also burn faster. Seating may need to be adjusted accordingly. Be aware of changing conditions.</p>
<p>Hazard: working with fire</p> <p>Risk: uncontrolled fire, burns</p>	<p>Water carrier and fire blanket to be at site of activity to quash fires, participants briefed on stop, drop and roll. Clear briefing on how to approach a fire, kneeling position working close to fire (e.g. when cooking/adding fuel).</p> <p>Larger demo (& cooking) fire should be supervised by instructor or responsible adult – never to be left unattended and a safe zone must be established. Fires should be kept small, appropriate for their intended use.</p> <p>When a tarp is used over the fire, sufficient clearance must be given to prevent flame and sparks from reaching any part of it.</p> <p>Fire must be thoroughly extinguished and site left safe at the end of the activity.</p>		<p>5x2=10</p>		<p>Additional checks should be made on windy days, as this could spread the effects of flames and sparks further. Fires may also burn faster. Seating may need to be adjusted accordingly. Be aware of changing conditions.</p>

<p>Risk: cuts, serious injury, amputation</p>	<p>supervised by the activity leader. Tools should be cleaned and checked for damage at the end of the session, and any repairs made as soon as possible.</p> <p>Activity leader should have a suitable first aid qualification and a first aid kit equipped for dealing with serious bleeding.</p>				
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Staffing ratios and supervision

Maximum staffing ratio 1:6. Minimum of 2 staff/responsible adults.

N.B. the terms activity leader, instructor and staff are used interchangeably to refer to the person in charge of the session. Where the term adult/responsible adult is used, this could refer to *any* person over 18.

Age/fitness considerations: Accessible for all ages and fitness.

Signed:



Name: Stephen Tyrrell

Date: 30/7/2021