

## Bushcraft & Campfire Risk Assessment

Activity: Bushcraft & Campfire

What are the hazards?  
 Timber, Tree roots, Branches, etc.  
 Bracken, Sweet chestnuts, Pinecones  
 Poisonous Wild Foods  
 Nettles  
 Weather  
 Kelly Kettles  
 Boiling water  
 Fire  
 Tools – predominantly knives and saws

Who is at risk? Staff, participants, and members of the public.

What are the risks	Existing safety measures/controls	Likelihood	Risk Rating
Being hit on the head by timber, due to a dangerous carrying technique, or the shelter collapsing. Suffering eye damage from branches or twigs carried at eye level	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Helmets may be worn at the discretion of the instructor. If participants are asked to wear helmets, the instructor must also always wear a helmet.</li> <li>Participants should be instructed in a safe carrying technique i.e., never carry timber above shoulder height and care taken when turning with the wood to prevent contact with other people.</li> <li>At all times Participants are required to take general care in their actions and this is monitored by the instructor and group leader.</li> <li>Good instructor awareness</li> </ul>		
Sweet chestnut cases or rubbish in leaf litter puncturing and/or irritating the skin.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Participants should be advised to take care when gathering leaf litter.</li> <li>Litter will be collected and placed in the bin whenever encountered</li> </ul>		

What are the risks	Existing safety measures/controls	Likelihood	Risk Rating
<p>Exposure to carcinogenic spores from bracken during late summer and autumn. Attempts to pull up bracken leading to cut hands</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participants advised NOT to pull up bracken for use on their shelters and if they do the instructor will clearly brief the likelihood of cutting hand and how to pick it safely.</li> <li>• First aid kit available and instructor trained.</li> </ul>		
<p>Stings from Nettles during collection/ preparation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Before collecting nettles, the group will be shown the best method of collection.</li> <li>• Gloves/rags will be made available to minimise stinging</li> </ul>		
<p>Eating inedible/ poisonous plants and fungi</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Group warned against eating anything from the wild unless they are certain of what it is or have been advised of its fitness to eat by an accompanying expert.</li> <li>• Instructor only to provide samples of food they can positively identify, as being safe for consumption.</li> <li>• Particular care must be taken with fungi.</li> <li>• Instructor to be aware of any food allergies within the group before preparing/giving out any edible items- both wild foods and items being made on the session such as damper bread. If unsure, check with the group leader.</li> </ul>		
<p>Fire – spreading / setting light to the peat under ground</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fires only to be lit in appropriate locations, i.e., on a clear site with no overhanging trees and either in a fire pit or raised off the ground.</li> <li>• Fires not to be left unattended at any time.</li> </ul>		

What are the risks	Existing safety measures/controls	Likelihood	Risk Rating
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An adequate supply of water and a fire blanket to be always on session.</li> <li>• Fire to be extinguished before leaving the site.</li> </ul>		
Scalding/burns by fire/hot food/pots/liquid	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Area immediately around a fire (the fire circle) should not be walked through; only individuals tending to the fire should be in close proximity and they must be invited in by the instructor.</li> <li>• If necessary, a 'restricted' area will be physically marked out.</li> <li>• Instructor to make participants aware of safe fire lighting techniques and the effect of wind direction, etc.</li> <li>• Instructor to judge whether handling of hot items is appropriate by group.</li> <li>• If necessary, participants may aid in the preparation of food, but only adults will be able to cook the food or handle pots.</li> <li>• Individuals are briefed on how to safely cook and eat marshmallows.</li> <li>• Groups to be reminded at the start of the activity not to handle metal pots/kettle once they have been over a fire.</li> <li>• Oven gloves to be provided where pots need to be handled</li> </ul>		
Burns during friction fire-lighting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Correct method will be demonstrated, and the activity carried out under the direct supervision of the instructor.</li> <li>• Group will be advised that the drill can still reach very hot temperature, even before smoke has been generated and therefore a suitable</li> </ul>		

What are the risks	Existing safety measures/controls	Likelihood	Risk Rating
	<p>level of care taken in handling the drill.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gloves to be made available for handling the nest if required.</li> </ul>		
Burns / Scalds from Kelly Kettles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Group to be reminded that metal heats up quickly and not to touch the kettle once the fire has been lit.</li> <li>Twigs to be added through the top hole in the Kelly kettle from the side, no hands should go directly over the top hole of the Kelly kettle.</li> <li>Kettle should never be boiled with the cork fitted inside the spout.</li> <li>The spout should not be positioned over the hole in the base pot.</li> <li>Group to communicate when blowing into the fire to provide oxygen, so no fuel is added at this point in case embers gets blown upwards.</li> <li>The instructor to mark out/ explain the area in front of the Kelly kettle waterspout, where hot water may splash out when the kettle boils and ensures no one stands or walks through this area.</li> <li>When removing the kettle from the base pot, the handle should be held horizontally, with one hand on either side.</li> <li>Boiling water should be poured with one hand on the handle and one hand pulling up the chain.</li> <li>Cups should always be placed on a flat/sturdy surface rather than being held in case of spillage.</li> </ul>		
Cuts from knives or saws	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Instructor to judge whether tool use is appropriate for the group.</li> </ul>		

What are the risks	Existing safety measures/controls	Likelihood	Risk Rating
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tool safety talk and demonstration to be given before using any tool with a group.</li> <li>• All tools to be kept in protective covers whilst not in use.</li> <li>• Group members must be sat down with elbows on knees or kneeling behind a stump when using knives and at least 1m away from the nearest person.</li> <li>• Always cut away from the body.</li> <li>• Tools to be regularly checked, maintained, and kept in good condition.</li> <li>• All tools should be visually checked before being taken onto session.</li> <li>• Group members should be encouraged to visually check a tool before use.</li> <li>• Instructor to account for all tools at the end of the section/session.</li> </ul>		
Entrapment / cuts when opening and closing of folding saws	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Instructor to demonstrate safe opening and closing of the saws.</li> <li>• When opening a folding saw, the tool should be orientated so that the blade faces away from the individual.</li> <li>• When closing the saw, care should be taken to ensure that fingers are not overlapping the slot where the blade will close into</li> </ul>		
Injury through inappropriate carrying of tools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tools should always be carried one at a time, in the appropriate manner (usually at the point of balance) – see individual tool information sheets.</li> <li>• Where lots of tools need to be transported, they should be placed in an appropriate bag / container with safety guards on</li> </ul>		

What are the risks	Existing safety measures/controls	Likelihood	Risk Rating
Tools being left unaccounted for	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All tools taken onto session should be stored in an appropriate receptacle.</li> <li>• Tools should always be counted in and out; before, during and after use.</li> <li>• When using tools with participants, the instructor should always be aware of how many tools are in use at one time.</li> <li>• Knives have yellow electrical tape on the handle and on the sheath, so they stand out against the floor.</li> </ul>		
Injury when sawing due to an unstable sawing base	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wherever practical, the item being sawn should be raised off the ground onto a sawhorse.</li> <li>• The non-sawing hand should be placed away from the line of cut, on the side that will remain once the cut has been made</li> </ul>		
Food poisoning and germs contracted from unclean hands and food preparation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Make sure all the group wash and disinfect their hands before participating in any cooking or eating activities.</li> <li>• Instructor to ensure all food is prepared in a hygienic way on cutting boards.</li> <li>• Instructor to ensure food is cooked thoroughly and is hot when served.</li> <li>• Instructor to ensure all food is stored in cool dry containers in a secure cabinet.</li> <li>• Ensure all participants wash their hands at the end of the session</li> </ul>		
Injuries deteriorating because the first aider is not able to see what they are doing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Torch is to be carried within the group on all sessions.</li> <li>• On call staff available to support if needed.</li> <li>• Instructors will be first aid trained.</li> </ul>		

What are the risks	Existing safety measures/controls	Likelihood	Risk Rating
because it's too dark			
The member of staff on call unaware of the Campfire and in the event of an emergency no member of staff monitoring the radio and therefore no assistance being available	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ALWAYS ensure that the staff member on call is aware of the Campfire and that they will be monitoring the radio.</li> <li>• Give an expected time of finishing the session and radio the member of staff on call at the start and on completion of the activity.</li> <li>• Personal mobile phone recommended to be carried in case of radio communication breakdown.</li> </ul>		

Reference to other manuals assessments:

[UK Youth Health and Safety policy](#)

**Reviewed** April 2023 by Head of Outdoor Learning Engagement and Delivery

**Approved** April 2023 by Assistant Director of Outdoor Learning

**Next review** April 2024

## Land Activities Risk Assessment

**Activity:** Activities Team session delivery

**What are the Hazards?**

- Weather
- Uneven ground
- Lack of communication
- Manual handling
- Uncooperative/ horseplay from groups
- Unskilled instructors
- Lake, swimming pool and Pond water
- Road, tracks, and car parks
- Barbed wire

**Who Is at Risk?** Staff, participants, and members of the public.

What are the Risks?	Existing Safety Measures/Controls	Likelihood	Risk Rating
Hypothermia and Hyperthermia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Uniform provided for Avon Tyrrell staff (PPE)</li> <li>• Instructors to equip themselves suitable for the prevailing conditions.</li> <li>• Shelters and taps with drinking water located at or near to all activities to provide shade and hydration reducing the risk of overheating.</li> <li>• Guests are provided with suggested clothing for each session prior to participation.</li> <li>• Instructors to monitor groups and are aware of symptoms and actions to take to avoid situations arising from Hypothermia or Hyperthermia</li> </ul>		
Slips, trip, falls, cuts & grazes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All areas maintained to a practical level in keeping with the environment for the activity in question (i.e., natural woodland for environmental sessions, clear footing where spotting is required etc.)</li> <li>• Area &amp; activities visually inspected prior to sessions.</li> </ul>		



What are the Risks?	Existing Safety Measures/Controls	Likelihood	Risk Rating
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Instructors and guests will wear appropriate footwear for the activity in question. Unless otherwise stipulated, trainers are the recommended footwear but secure walking boots, wellington boots and shoes will be accepted for most activities.</li> <li>• Clear instructor briefings and group control</li> <li>• Instructors aware of and to use the C.L.A.P throughout sessions.</li> <li>• Any individuals not adhering to Avon Tyrrell's safe working practices will be asked to refrain from participating until they are able to do so.</li> <li>• Participants are advised to wear long sleeves and trousers.</li> <li>• All Staff trained in appropriate spotting techniques.</li> <li>• Demonstrations or clear instructions given for all aspects of the sessions – participants may be used for this.</li> </ul>		
Equipment Failure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Area &amp; activities visually inspected prior to sessions.</li> <li>• Activities follow a comprehensive monthly / bi-monthly physical inspection regime.</li> </ul>		
Lack of communication leading to situation worsening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A radio will be carried on sessions or located at the activity base.</li> <li>• Mobile phones (turned to silent) encouraged on session as a backup.</li> <li>• When operating offsite then a charged mobile phone must be carried</li> <li>• Procedures in place to support staff if an incident occurs.</li> <li>• DI on duty and monitors activities Team and delivery</li> </ul>		
Injuries through lifting heavy and awkward	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Training given to all staff prior to running the activities independently which includes manual handling techniques.</li> </ul>		

What are the Risks?	Existing Safety Measures/Controls	Likelihood	Risk Rating
objects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Where staff hold qualifications, the manual handling advice provided during this training must be carried out.</li> <li>• Staff are encouraged to work together and use equipment where necessary to aid lifting where possible.</li> <li>• Instructors demonstrates correct lifting and manual handling techniques.</li> <li>• Instructors to help with lifting and moving equipment.</li> </ul>		
Injuries to staff and guests due to improper training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Training will be provided to guests for all activities in line with the specific operating procedure for the activity.</li> <li>• Training will be provided for instructors; this will be done with external and internal training courses.</li> <li>• The delivery of session is monitored by a senior member of the activities team and feedback is given</li> </ul>		
Human error – groups not listening to briefings and taking in vital information.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Full co-operation from group leaders in group control and discipline</li> <li>• Instructors can stop a session if they feel that group members are acting in a dangerous or irresponsible manner.</li> <li>• If there is an issue, there will be a senior member of staff available to assist.</li> </ul>		
Contracting Lime disease Ehrlichiosis, Babesiosis and Bartonella from ticks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Groups are encouraged not to go through bracken, tall grass, or high vegetation. Especially between the high-risk months of May-June and September – October.</li> <li>• Groups are encouraged to wear long sleeves and trousers in the high-risk months when doing activities.</li> <li>• ‘Tick twisters’ available to assist in removal of ticks if found during visits and advice given to seek medical attention if any of the signs/symptoms appear.</li> </ul>		
Injury or death from vehicles working or visiting the site	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Group leaders to be aware of traffic areas and be responsible for the group- setting boundaries and making their group aware of Roads, tracks, and car parks.</li> <li>• Roads, tracks, and car parks are marked on the Avon Tyrrell map.</li> <li>• Speed limits around site 15MPH</li> </ul>		

What are the Risks?	Existing Safety Measures/Controls	Likelihood	Risk Rating
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Instructor running session to minimise time on roads and in car parks and where possible avoid.</li> <li>Ensure good group control.</li> <li>Speeding drivers or inappropriate driving to be challenged by staff</li> </ul>		
Injuries from Barbed wire (used across Avon Tyrrell's boundary to keep livestock out)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Group leaders to be advised on arrival there are sections of barbed wire around the site, and these have warning signs.</li> <li>Group leaders to be responsible for the group- setting boundaries and making their group aware of location of Barbed wire.</li> </ul>		
Getting lost and injured	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Group leaders to be responsible for the group- setting boundaries and making their group aware of hazards.</li> <li>Avon Tyrrell has a lost person procedure that can be put into action if someone is missing.</li> <li>On session the instructor will be familiar with the area they are using</li> <li>Instructors to maintain control over a group and regularly check numbers present</li> </ul>		
Manual handling injuries from moving equipment – Instructors and participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mechanical aids used to transport equipment- i.e., wheelbarrows.</li> <li>No particularly heavy equipment used.</li> <li>Good instructor briefing and awareness.</li> <li>Challenges chosen must be appropriate to the group.</li> <li>Instructor training and assessment procedures prior to running sessions independently.</li> <li>Annual manual handling training for staff</li> </ul>		

**Reference to Other Manuals Assessments:**

UK Youth Health and Safety policy

Unattended Child Policy

Missing child policy

## Emergency procedures

**Reviewed** April 2023 by Head of Outdoor Learning Engagement and Delivery

**Approved** April 2023 by Assistant Director of Outdoor Learning

**Next review** April 2024