

## Shelter Building Risk Assessment

Activity: Shelter Building

What are the hazards? Timber, Tree roots, Branches, Bracken, Sweet chestnuts, Pine cones  
Helmets  
Weather

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>Safety helmets may be worn at the discretion of the instructor. If participants are asked to wear helmets, the instructor must also wear a helmet at all times</li> <li>Participants should be instructed in a safe carrying technique i.e. never carry timber above shoulder height and care taken when turning/placing down the wood in order to prevent contact with other people</li> <li>At all times Participants are required to take a general care in their actions which is monitored by the instructor and group leader.</li> </ul>	LOW	LOW
Sweet chestnut cases in leaf litter puncturing and/or irritating the skin. Rubbish with sharp edges hidden in the leaf litter causing injury	<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>	LOW	LOW
Tripping over and falling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Group told not to run within the area and to watch out for slippery logs especially in wet weather</li> <li>All areas maintained to acceptable conditions for the activity in question (i.e. natural woodland for field study sessions, clear footing where spotting is required etc.)</li> <li>Instructors and participants should wear secure and good soled shoes. i.e. trainers</li> </ul>	LOW	LOW

Back injury from lifting/moving logs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participants briefed on suitably sized materials for shelters.</li> <li>• Participants will be shown correct lifting and carrying techniques and advised to seek help when moving awkward or heavy materials</li> <li>• Instructors to attend manual handling training annually.</li> </ul>	LOW	LOW
Cuts from bracken and inhalation of carcinogenic spores	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Group warned about bracken cuts and areas with bracken avoided during late summer and autumn when spores released</li> </ul>	LOW	LOW
Participants climbing trees and falling from height	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participants never to climb trees in wet conditions</li> <li>• In fine weather, participants can be asked not to climb trees, or to climb no further than head height (that is, the Participants height above the ground) as appropriate to the group. Climbing of trees should only be to enable participants to reach hung up dead wood on low branches for shelters/</li> </ul>	LOW	LOW
Injury through ill-fitting helmets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Instructor to check helmets before the group starts to build shelters</li> </ul>	LOW	LOW

Reference to other manuals assessments:

[UK Youth Health and Safety policy](#)

When was the assessment reviewed and by whom?

November 2018 Chief Instructor

Date of next review and to be done by whom?

November 2019 Chief Instructor