



# Risk assessment form (H&S)

<b>Name of assessor(s)</b>	Callum McMillan	<b>Group / Establishment:</b>	SSE Outdoors
<b>Date</b>	13/01/25		

<b>What is the workplace / activity:</b>  <b>Bushcraft</b> activities take place in a woodland near Pardlestone Lane. It can include teaching participants fire lighting, knife skills, camp craft. (Shelter building can happen in the same area, either as a standalone or as part of a Bushcraft session. See Shelter Building Risk Assessment).	<b>How was the assessment done?</b> Completed by Activities manager	<b>Next review date:</b> January 2026
		<b>Is the assessment 'generic' or specific to the situation?</b>

Who could be harmed, and how?	What is already being done to control the risks?	*Risk Rating Severity x Likelihood			What further action is recommended to reduce risks further?	Action by whom?	Date action due	Date action done	Residual Risk Rating Severity x Likelihood		
		S	L	S x L					S	L	S x L
<b>All participants –</b> Clothing/ hair entrapment & jewellery.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>COP guidance regarding clothing to be followed.</li> <li>Hair to be tied back and/or tucked out of the way throughout session.</li> <li>Any jewellery to be removed at start of session.</li> </ul>	2	2	4							

Who could be harmed, and how?	What is already being done to control the risks?	*Risk Rating Severity x Likelihood			What further action is recommended to reduce risks further?	Action by whom?	Date action due	Date action done	Residual Risk Rating Severity x Likelihood		
		S	L	S x L					S	L	S x L
<b>All participants –</b> Slips, trips, falls & minor injuries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Walking always expected.</li> <li>Suitable footwear to be worn (wellies/boots).</li> <li>Group to be always kept under control.</li> <li>Point out any potential hazards, roots, logs, uneven ground</li> <li>All staff to have first aid kit on session.</li> </ul>	2	2	4							
<b>All participants –</b> Extreme weather.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Check weather prior to start of session/day</li> <li>Cease activity if lightening is within 2 miles (1 mile per second from thunder to lightening)</li> <li>Alternative activity identified if winds are high</li> </ul>	2	3	5							
<b>All participants –</b> Injuries caused by low level branches & manual handling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Remove any risks if possible or avoid the area if not.</li> <li>Manual handling techniques demonstrated at start of session.</li> <li>Boundaries set out to the group at start of session.</li> <li>Potential hazards pointed out.</li> </ul>	3	2	6							
<b>All Participants –</b> Cooking, Food poisoning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Handling of pots and stoves are to be done by instructor wearing the correct PPE.</li> <li>Clear boundary around area when using stoves to prevent burns.</li> <li>Food to be prepped before start of session.</li> <li>Thermostat probe all food to check that it has been cooked thoroughly.</li> </ul>	3	2	6							

Who could be harmed, and how?	What is already being done to control the risks?	*Risk Rating Severity x Likelihood			What further action is recommended to reduce risks further?	Action by whom?	Date action due	Date action done	Residual Risk Rating Severity x Likelihood		
		S	L	S x L					S	L	S x L
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dietaries to be made clear by staff or participants at start of session.</li> </ul>										
<b>All participants –</b> Burns, scalds.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Clear instructions about fire safety and working with fire lighter.</li> <li>All long hair to be tied back.</li> <li>All clothing to be secure.</li> <li>Set boundaries that participants should not cross.</li> <li>Participants to kneel or seated whilst cooking to prevent falling or tripping around the fire.</li> <li>Only instructor to handle hot pans, heat proof gloves to be worn.</li> <li>Continuous monitoring of participants</li> </ul>	3	2	6							
<b>All participants –</b> In proper use of Knife skills.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Clear instructions of how to hold, use &amp; pass knives.</li> <li>Use the bubble method which allows the participant space to work.</li> <li>Return the knife to the locking mode in the sheath when not in use.</li> <li>Continuous monitoring of participants &amp; behaviour.</li> <li>Count knives out and back in again once the activity has finished</li> <li>Close supervision of equipment.</li> </ul>	4	2	8							
<b>All participants –</b> Falling trees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Activity area to be checked at beginning of day for any unsafe trees.</li> <li>Monthly checks of woodland for any sign of damage or dead trees that can be removed.</li> </ul>	4	1	4							

\* Please refer to the risk rating matrix below. Further guidance on how to calculate a risk rating from the matrix is on the [Risk Assessment policy HS 004](#).

Please now pass this assessment to your manager for approval				
<b>Name of assessor's manager:</b>	Karl Watson	<b>Date:</b>	17/02/2025	<b>Manager's comments</b>
<b>Signature:</b>	K Watson			

Risk Matrix		Risk Rating		Consequence (Impact/Severity of Injury)						
		Very High (VH) 16-25	High (H) 10-12	Medium (M) 5-9	Low (L) 1-4	1. Insignificant	2. Minor	3. Moderate	4. Major	5. Catastrophic
						• Near Miss. • No treatment required.	• First-Aid treatment (e.g. minor cuts, bruises, bumps)	• Medical treatment • Lost time of >3 working days.	• Serious injury/ medical treatment. • Hospitalisation. • Lost time (RIDDOR)	• Loss of life. • Permanent disability
		Likelihood Descriptor		Consequence Descriptor						
Likelihood (Probability/Chance)	Very likely. Event is expected to occur in most circumstances: More than 95% chance of occurring.	5.	Almost Certain	M-5	H-10	VH-15	VH-20	VH-25		
	There is a strong possibility the event will occur. Between 65% - 95% chance of occurring.	4.	Likely	L-4	M-8	H-12	VH-16	VH-20		
	The event has occurred before or could again. Between 35% - 65% chance of occurring.	3.	Possible	L-3	M-6	M-9	H-12	VH-15		
	The event is not expected to occur but could under specific circumstances. Between 5% - 35% chance of occurring.	2.	Unlikely	L-2	L-4	M-6	M-8	H-10		
	The event has not occurred before, but it may occur in exceptional circumstances. < 5% chance of occurring.	1.	Rare	L-1	L-2	L-3	L-4	M-5		