



Risk assessment form (H&S)

Name of assessor(s)	Callum McMillan	Group / Establishment:	SSE Outdoors
Date	13/01/26		

What is the workplace / activity: Bushcraft 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).	How was the assessment done? Completed by Activities manager	Next review date: January 2027
		Is the assessment 'generic' or specific to the situation?

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
All participants – Clothing/ hair entrapment & jewellery.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> COP guidance regarding clothing to be followed. Hair to be tied back and/or tucked out of the way throughout session. Any jewellery to be removed at start of session. 	2	2	4							

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All participants – Slips, trips, falls & minor injuries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Walking always expected. Suitable footwear to be worn (wellies/boots). Group to be always kept under control. Point out any potential hazards, roots, logs, uneven ground All staff to have first aid kit on session. 	2	2	4							
All participants – Extreme weather.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Check weather prior to start of session/day Cease activity if lightning is within 2 miles (1 mile per second from thunder to lightning) Alternative activity identified if winds are high. (yellow warning or higher) Regular shade and hydration breaks during the summer months. 	2	3	5							
All participants – Injuries caused by low level branches & manual handling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remove any risks if possible or avoid the area if not. Manual handling techniques demonstrated at start of session. Boundaries set out to the group at start of session. Potential hazards pointed out. 	3	2	6							
All Participants – Cooking, Food poisoning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Handling of pots and stoves are to be done by instructor wearing the correct PPE. Clear boundary around area when using stoves to prevent burns. Food to be prepped before start of session. 	3	2	6							

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thermostat probe all food to check that it has been cooked thoroughly. Dietaries to be made clear by staff or participants at start of session. 										
All participants – Burns, scalds.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clear instructions about fire safety and working with fire lighter. All long hair to be tied back. All clothing to be secure. Set boundaries that participants should not cross. Participants to kneel or seated whilst cooking to prevent falling or tripping around the fire. Only instructor to handle hot pans, heat proof gloves to be worn. Continuous monitoring of participants 	3	2	6							
All participants – In proper use of Knife skills.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clear instructions of how to hold, use & pass knives. Use the bubble method which allows the participant space to work. Return the knife to the locking mode in the sheath when not in use. Continuous monitoring of participants & behaviour. Count knives out and back in again once the activity has finished Close supervision of equipment. 	4	2	8							
All participants – Falling trees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Activity area to be checked at beginning of day for any unsafe trees. Monthly checks of woodland for any sign of damage or dead trees that can be removed. 	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				
Name of assessor's manager:	Luke Hoather	Date:	12/1/26	Manager's comments
Signature:	<i>LHoather</i>			

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
Likelihood Descriptor		Consequence Descriptor		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Near Miss. No treatment required. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> First-Aid treatment (e.g. minor cuts, bruises, bumps) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Medical treatment Lost time of >3 working days. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Serious injury/ medical treatment. Hospitalisation. Lost time (RIDDOR) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Loss of life. Permanent disability
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