Risk Assessment

Lindley Educational Trust

Hollowford Centre

Bushcraft

Inc. kelly kettle, food preparation, shelter building, fire lighting, knifes, campfires

- Current as of January 2026
- By Paul Booker

Review date by 31 January 2027

Benefit Statement	A valuable educational experience exploring such areas as building shelters to protect from the elements, lighting fire using traditional skills and materials. Helps people gain a basic understanding of ancient living. A fire creates a great atmosphere that brings people together and encourages individual reflection.

HAZARD	RISK	CONTROL MEASURE	FURTHER ACTION REQURED	RESPONSIBILITY / DUE & COMPLETED DATES
General	Various injuries	Code of Practice applies Suitably qualified & experienced instructor (includes First Aid) Clear briefings & supervision All accidents, near misses and incidents are recorded and appropriate action undertaken as required. Safety reviewed in staff meetings. Seek & share information with similar providers	No further action at this stage	
For every session there will be a dynamic risk assessment on arrival and will be on going throughout the activity session				
Extreme Weather	Sunburn Hypothermia Hyperthermia	Instructor to check weather forecast prior to session & observe conditions throughout. If necessary stop activity and move to safety (often minibus or accommodation). Change plans as necessary Ensure participants have suitable & adequate clothing plus access to warm (or cold) drinks Remind visiting staff & young people about sun protection. Group shelter available	No further action at this stage	
Participants	Various	Participants asked to share relevant previous & existing medical issues. Visiting group leaders asked any other (eg behavioural) issues Staff ratios (group size) amended as required	No further action at this stage	
Members of the public	Various	Venue choice Qualified & experienced instructor	No further action at this stage	
Kelly Kettle or similar	Burns and scalds	Clear briefing and preparation by instructor. Monitor group preparing and loading the fire. Tie long hair back. Make sure the stopper is NOT inserted into the spout of the kettle. Burns kit easily accessible	No further action at this stage	

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Edged tools	Cuts and puncture wounds	Instructor to judge the suitability of the group before using edged tools. Clear briefing and guidance on how to use the tool. Close supervision at all times.	No further action at this stage	
Shelter building	Lifting injury, scratches and cuts	Clear briefing and guidance on collecting and carrying materials. Safe manual handling. Highlight the risk to face and eyes.	No further action at this stage	
Fires	Burns	Easy access to water for extinguishing the fire. Burns kit easily accessible. Fire location & size appropriate to the task. Briefing regarding behaviour, seating, placing wood on the fire	No further action at this stage	
Fire lighting	Burns, cuts and abrasions.	Clear briefing on equipment and methods used. Long hair tied back. Close supervision.	No further action at this stage	
Cooking	Cuts, food poisoning, scalds and burns.	Good hygiene methods. Brief group on the temperature of foodstuffs eg Marshmallows. Safe volume of water in pots.	No further action at this stage	
Wild foods	Poisoning, allergic reaction.	Wild foods only used with under 18s if previously agreed 100% positive identification Only ingest a small amount if it is the first time of trying Do not collect from field edges that may be contaminated with pesticides or herbicides. Do not collect from roadside verges or where dogs are walked. Do not collect from areas of foul or contaminated water. Always wash before consumption. Do not use old or dying/deceased plants.	No further action at this stage	