

Bushcraft (inc. shelter building, fire lighting, wild game prep, cutting tools, foraging)

Name of Section or Activity (and version number)	Waddecar Scout Activity Centre Bushcraft V2025-02	Date of risk assessment	15 th September 2025	Review Date	January 2026	Name and Role of who undertook this risk assessment	Damian King Centre Manager
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Hazard Identified? / Risks from it?	Who is at risk?	How are the risks already controlled? What extra controls are needed?
Hazard – something that may cause harm or damage. Risk – the chance of it happening.	Young people, Leaders, Visitors?	Controls – Ways of making the activity safer by removing or reducing the risk from it. For example - you might use a different piece of equipment, or you might change the way the activity is carried out.
Slips, trips & falls	All	All activities to be used in an organised manner under supervision.
Equipment Failure	Participants	Equipment checked at regular intervals and recorded by a competent person. Equipment checked prior to every use. All damage reported to Waddecar Centre Management.
Unauthorised Use	Participants	Equipment is kept locked away when not in use. Cutting tools to be returned to the Activity Store at the end of each session.
Injury from other participants	Participants	Clear instructions to be given before the start of the activity. Leader to be vigilant and in control when lifting of equipment and participants is involved.
Use of tools	All	Safety brief and demonstration to be given to all groups prior to use. Only use tools under the supervision of the instructor or designated leader. Only use tools in a designated area. Ensure safe distance between user and others. Ensure all wood to be cut is stable with no risk of slipping and no risk of blade slipping into people. Always cut away from the body. Ensure appropriate footwear and clothing is worn and hair tied back etc. Instructor to be first aid trained and have access to a first aid kit
Misuse of Kelly Kettles Including Burns	Participants	Ensure that the Kelly Kettle is placed on a level, flat surface. During operation the bung in the Kelly Kettle should be removed, unless a rubber whistle bung is in place. Whistle vent should be pointing down when in operation. Ensure that the ventilation hole on the Kelly Kettle base is on the opposite side of the spout. When in operation the chimney can funnel heat and can put people adding wood to the stove at risk. Use fire gloves when taking the stove off the fire. Hair & loose clothing to be tied back All fire to be fully out & cold/wet before leaving the area
Lifting equipment	All	Instructor to brief group on the appropriate way to lift and carry equipment; use legs to lift, head up, natural back position, walk, use lots of people for bigger structures. Brief people who are being carried, check they are OK with it, make sure they can hold themselves as necessary.
Burns from Hot Food or Fire	Participants	Participants reminded that food removed from a fire is still hot. Food removed from the fire using tongs Instructor to remove tin foil.
Injuries from foraging	Participants	Participants informed about what stings/what is sharp. Participants giving knowledge on techniques on how to pick berries/leaves
Waterborne disease	All	Make sure the water comes to a rolling boil. Participants understand how filter systems work, and to never drink straight for a standing water source.

Additional information can be found in the **Safety Checklist for Leaders** and other information at scouts.org.uk/safety

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Burns	All	Have a designated area for fire lighting. Brief group to pay special attention in this area and especially do not run. Group briefed not to play with fire. Once something is in the fire do not remove (only exception is some food stuffs which will be removed by the instructor or designated leader). Instructor to ensure area is supervised at all times. Water source to be nearby for quick treatment if necessary.
Out of control fire	All	Clear the area of all combustible material before the fire is set and lit. Do not build fires too big. Consider using an alter fire or similar containment method. Make sure fire is out before leaving. Bucket of water always kept nearby.
Toxic smoke	All	Do not allow the burning of live trees. Do not allow the burning of plastics.

Completed by	Name, Damian King Role / level: Waddecar Centre Manager Date; 9 th January 2025	Checked by Line Manager	Name, Role / level Date
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