

ASHDOWN FOREST RISK ASSESSMENT

Task	Schools and Education Activities	Equipment	NA
Area	Ashdown Forest and/or Forest Centre site	Materials	Equipment as required
People at risk	Children, teachers, adult helpers and Ashdown Forest Leaders		

Hazard	Risk	Control Measures	With Control measures in place		
			Severity	Likelihood	Risk Level
Coming into contact with Forest operations – falling trees, flying pieces of wood, unstable log piles, spraying.	Heavy falling trees and flying debris potentially leading to crush injuries, cuts and abrasions. Drifting spray potentially allowing contact with chemicals.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leader(s) to plan alternative route if required by Rangers or notices. If there is an unexpected hazard Leader(s) must lead the group away. 	3	2	Low
Trees/branches in possible ‘falling’ condition.	Possible crush injuries, concussion and cuts and abrasions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leader(s) to be aware of immediate environment. If noticed Leader(s) to keep group away and inform office. 	3	2	Low
Slips and trips on muddy, or uneven terrain and on steep banks, slopes and ditches.	Falls potentially leading to broken bones, sprains, strains and bruises. Cuts and abrasions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leader(s) to warn children and adults before setting out of the hazards such as uneven paths, wet or muddy patches and advise that children should not run. Schools advised in advance (at booking) about suitable footwear. Leader(s) to warn adults and children before setting out of the hazards of steep banks, slopes and ditches. Adults to supervise 	3	2	Low

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Shelters made by others.	Shelters are unstable and can easily fall leading to broken bones, trapped fingers, limbs, concussion etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leader(s) to warn adults and children to keep away from shelters. 	2	2	Low
Rope swings.	Rope swings are unstable, likely to break and bring down branches or snap.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leader(s) to tell children not to use. • Adults to be aware and monitor. 	1	3	Low
Sweep nets.	Injury from misuse of nets.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leader(s)/adults to instruct and supervise correct use of nets. • Leader(s)/adults to ensure adequate space between net users. 	2	1	Low
Nettles, brambles cuts, swinging branches.	Nettle stings with possible allergic reactions. Tripping over brambles or laceration. Swinging branches – leading to lacerations or bruising.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leader(s) to warn children and adults before setting out of the hazards undergrowth. • Leaders to make children and adults aware when approaching a hazard and direct accordingly. 	2	3	Low
Logs rolling on to feet.	Heavy logs moving leading to potentially broken bones, trapped fingers, limbs and feet.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leader(s) to give verbal warnings and ensure good levels of supervision. 	2	3	Low
Diseases from soil.	Potential for children to pick up diseases/bacteria from the ground and things picked up from the ground.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children to be reminded, by the Leader(s), not to put their hands in their mouths • Children to be reminded, by the Leader(s), not to eat food that has fallen on the ground. • To wash their hands on return to the Centre and before eating drinking. 	1	3	Low

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Barbed wire.	Trip hazard and cuts and abrasions and catching clothing.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make children and adults aware when approaching the barbed wire on the path that borders the Scout Camp and direct accordingly. 	1	3	Low
Adverse weather	Heat, cold, rain, snow, strong winds and thunder storms.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schools advised in advance (at booking) about dressing appropriately for the weather conditions (and providing sun-tan lotion and water in heat). • If weather conditions are extreme, especially windy conditions, cancelling the session should be considered. • Leader awareness of how children are feeling. • Alternative indoor activities provided in very poor conditions. 	1	1	Low
Insect bites, stings and ticks.	Insect bites and stings could lead to allergic reactions, anaphylactic shock and/or insect borne diseases.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leader(s) to remind children and adults about checking for ticks. Information about appropriate action provided on further information sheet. • Appropriate clothing 	1	3	Low
Dogs and faeces.	<p>Potential of receiving a dog bite or being knocked over by dogs.</p> <p>Potential of stepping in or touching dog faeces leading to disease.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leader(s) to warn children and adults not to approach or touch dogs. • Warn children and adults of the presence of dog faeces. 	2	3	Low
Snake Bites.	Potential of adder bite leading to allergic reactions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leader(s) to warn children and adults to stay on paths and keep out of heather areas and away from track edges. • Leader(s) and adults be vigilant and look for basking adders. • Children to be told not to pick up animals. 	3	1	Low

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<p>Mirror walk and blindfold activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tripping over obstacles • Banging head on trees and branches or having them swing back into face 	<p>Falls potentially leading to broken bones, sprains, strains and bruises. Cuts and abrasions.</p> <p>Swinging branches – leading to lacerations or bruising.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leader(s) and adults to maintain close supervision of children. • Leader(s) to ensure as far as reasonable that the terrain is suitable and that the participants are aware of the any potential hazards. • Leader(s) can arrange the activity so that children can work in pairs or with a staggered start. • Leader(s) and adults to ensure that any branches are held back and not allowed to swing onto the person behind. 	2	2	Low
<p>Indoor Activities:</p> <p>Use of scissors</p> <p>Fire Alarms</p> <p>Out of bounds areas</p>	<p>Cuts</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leader(s) and adults should ensure age appropriate scissors are used • Leader(s) and adults should ensure safe and proper use of scissors and prevent running. • Leader(s) should be aware of the fire exit and ensure it is not blocked. They should also be aware of the fire alarm bell and know the muster point. Leader(s) and adults should follow the instructions of the fire marshals. • Leader(s) and adults should be aware of out of bounds areas (i.e. the pond and ditch, the staff car park and yard and the Centre car park) and ensure children are aware of the dangers and stay away. 	1	1	Low

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leader(s) and adults should ensure the children do not enter the kitchen area or the stairs / mezzanine area in the Education Barn. 			
Shelter-building activity	Falling branches, sticks in eye/face. Knocks from materials being moved. Bracken cuts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children to work in small groups with adults to supervise. • Clear instruction given by leader on how to move the branches safely. • Children not to pick up fresh bracken. 	2	2	Low
Handling sharp flint tools	Cuts. Puncture wound	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children to be warned of danger by leader. • Work in small groups with adult supervision. • Flints removed if children not using them carefully. 	1	1	Low