

Risk Assessment

Location: Lesnes Abbey			Session Stone Age: handling natural materials, making flint weapons and den making		Assessor: Stephanie Johnson		Assessment Date: 31/01/2025	
Hazard	Severity of Injury (1-5)	Risk Likelihood (1-5)	Total Risk Level	Measures to Reduce Risk	Severity of Injury (1-5)	New Risk Likelihood (1-5)	New Total Risk Level	
Injury from falling tree branches	5	3	15	Trees subject to on-going management and maintenance. Site will be inspected beforehand and any dead hanging branches if deemed potentially hazardous and if possible, to do so will be removed. Site will be changed if deemed necessary due to hazardous trees. Trip will be postponed if on the day there are strong winds/storms.	4	1	4	
Worsening of injury through slow emergency response	4	3	12	First aid kit to be brought on site by member of school and a first aider to be present on site with each class. Entrance to site will be kept clear of obstructions to allow for emergency service vehicle access.	2	1	2	
Injury caused by slips, trips and falls	5	4	20	Inspect site for hazards and inform and or point out/mark hazards to all members of staff and children. Before start of session give a briefing to the school instructing them in the correct behaviour for the site e.g do not run in the woods and what hazards they need to look out for. If possible, safely remove hazards from site. All staff and children to stick to designated paths through woodland. All staff and children encouraged to wear appropriate clothes and footwear. Lesnes Abbey Staff to wear steel toe cap boots if working with heavy equipment or tools. Correctly store equipment/tools on site to prevent trips.	4	1	4	
Injury caused through manual handling	4	5	20	Use of vehicle/wheelbarrow to transport equipment to site. Heavy loads should be carried between a minimum of two people. Demonstrate correct manual handling technique and provide PPE	3	1	3	

				e.g. gloves Distance of handling to be reduced as much as possible with breaks if necessary, along with using manual handling aids.			
Injury from den making	5	3	15	Children and staff advised to carry long and heavy sticks between at least two people. Children briefed not to wave sticks around and anyone seen doing this will be excluded from participating in the activity any further. Children will be divided into groups with a member of staff to supervise them. Sticks will be attached to trees or other structures using rope and will be periodically checked by Lesnes staff to ensure they are safely used, along with checks from supporting school adults. Ropes provided are bright orange to reduce the likelihood of children or adults present either tripping or becoming entangled. Children will be supervised at all times during the session by attending adults and Lesnes staff.	2	2	4
Injury caused through tool use/equipment use	5	4	20	Inspect tools and equipment for defects, rejecting the ones that do. Demonstrate correct tool and equipment use to all staff and children. Children will be supervised during the use of tools and equipment by school and Lesnes Abbey staff.	2	1	2
Hyperthermia/hypothermia caused by weather	5	3	15	Weather to be monitored before session and if necessary, the session postponed/cancelled/changed if conditions considered hazardous. All staff and participants to dress appropriately. Drinking fountains are present on site along with kitchen facilities and café. Stop work if participants fall ill, provide first aid and if necessary, call ambulance. The use of water buckets to test den's for waterproofness will be at the agreement between Lesnes and school staff and will take into account the weather conditions and the clothing suitability of the children e.g., wearing coats.	2	1	2
Distress caused by the use of water buckets	1	3	3	The use of water buckets to test den's for waterproofness will be at the agreement between Lesnes staff and school staff. Children will be encouraged to be under their den when tested (unless the weather conditions dictate otherwise e.g., near freezing	1	1	1

				temperatures). No child will be forced to be under the den and if necessary the dens can be tested without the children underneath them. The knowledge of the school staff will also be used to identify any children who may react to the water testing negatively and appropriate accommodations taken for them.			
Injury caused by dogs	5	4	20	<p>All staff and children to be briefed on correct behaviour when approached by dogs on site. They will be told not to touch or run away from a dog but to place their arms across their chest 'x factor' and to tell a member of staff.</p> <p>Children will be encouraged to stick together and to remain calm during session and if possible, owners will be asked to put their dogs on leads when passing through session area.</p>	4	2	8
Distress caused by becoming lost	3	4	12	<p>During briefing all staff and children will be advised to stay with a member of staff at all times.</p> <p>All staff and children to stick to designated paths through woodland. If anyone needs to leave the session they must do so in the company of a member of staff and let the session leader know.</p> <p>School staff will be responsible for ensuring all children are present throughout the session.</p> <p>At den making site children will be told the boundaries of the site and how far they can go to collect den making materials.</p>	2	1	3
Stranger Danger	5	3	15	<p>No one is to be left on their own whilst on site and children must be accompanied by a member of staff at all times.</p> <p>During briefing all staff and children will be advised not to talk to strangers and to tell a teacher or member of staff if a stranger tries to talk to them.</p> <p>All members of Lesnes Abbey education staff have been DBS checked.</p>	5	1	5
Hazardous waste/litter/animal poo	3	5	15	<p>Walking route will be checked for litter/hazardous waste and if safe to do so removed. Lesnes Abbey is litter picked regularly.</p> <p>During briefing all staff and children will be told not to pick up any litter or animal poo whilst on site but to warn those around them and to let a member of staff know.</p> <p>All staff and children will be advised if there is hazardous waste, litter or animal poo. If possible, it will be safely removed from the working area and disposed of. If not possible then its location will be</p>	3	1	3

				highlighted to all staff and children for them to avoid.			
Injury from vegetation	5	4	20	<p>All staff and children to be briefed on any low hanging vegetation or vegetation that might be hazardous if they encounter it e.g. stinging nettles, holly, brambles.</p> <p>If there are any hazardous plants on site, the children and staff will be told of its location and encouraged to stay away from area.</p>	2	2	4
Injury/sickness from medical conditions/allergies	5	3	15	<p>Members of school staff to be aware of any medical conditions/allergies and to bring appropriate treatments/medicines if possible, e.g. asthma inhalers, epi pens.</p> <p>Members of Lesnes Abbey staff to be informed of any medical conditions/allergies that might be relevant to the session planned e.g allergic to wasp stings.</p> <p>Where possible the session will be adapted to take into account any medical conditions/allergies e.g go slowly up steep hills and take breaks for asthma sufferers.</p>	5	1	5
Injury from stone age tool making/testing tools	4	5	20	<p>All staff and children will be shown a demonstration on how to make their tools and the behaviour expected when handling flints and sticks e.g., not hitting others with them.</p> <p>Any child waving around/throwing sticks or flints will be excluded from participating in the activity any further.</p> <p>Afterwards children will wash their hands before handling, drinking or eating any food and drink.</p>	4	1	4
Injury caused through handling objects and artefacts	3	4	12	<p>Children will be supervised during handling of objects and artefacts by school and Lesnes Abbey staff. Potentially harmful behaviour will be stopped e.g., waving around/hitting people with objects.</p> <p>Expected behaviours will be stated at the beginning before any equipment is handed out e.g., not to try breaking the objects.</p> <p>Any broken objects will be removed by Lesnes staff to prevent the possibility of injuries.</p>	3	1	3
Injury from fire	5	5	25	<p>All staff and children to be briefed on what to do if they hear the fire alarm whilst inside building. They will be told to quickly and calmly leave the building and to make their way to the fire assembly point (mulberry tree) with their teachers. No one should try to take their belongings with them or re enter the building.</p> <p>Lesnes Abbey staff will be last to leave classroom and will check storerooms and disabled toilet for any children/members of staff.</p>	5	1	5

				<p>At the fire assembly point teachers will perform a register/head count of their staff and children.</p> <p>All fire exits will be kept clear to enable a safe evacuation and the shutters will always be open over the fire exits. Fire extinguishers are located at each fire exit to be used if necessary and are the responsibility of Bexley Borough Council along with the fire alarms.</p> <p>Fire doors will be kept shut at all times.</p>			
Nearest Hospital:		Darent Valley Hospital, Darenth Wood Road, Dartford, DA2 8DA					
First Aider:		Stephanie Johnson					
Mobile Numbers:		07816128570					