

Brenin Adventures

Bushcraft – Operational procedures



Staffing

1:12 – in house induction, with first aid

1:16 – with assistant competent in group management

Venues

All venues must have a site specific risk assessment before any sessions operate.

Particular attention must be paid to access / environment.

Instructors must always be aware of fire risk in the natural environment.

General procedure

The activity provides an experience of outdoor play, collecting natural materials, lighting fires, cooking & eating outdoors and enjoyment of the outdoor environment.

The activity can be varied to take into account the nature of the group, the time available and the aims & aspirations of the group.

Instructor briefing must include:

- Safety / Environment / Activity
- Boundaries to the activity area
- What materials can be collected and from where
- Safe fire lighting under direct instructor supervision
- Safe use of tools – knives, saws, axes etc, under direct instructor supervision

Use of cutting tools must be strictly supervised and restricted to designated areas

Cutting tools must be kept sharp and sheathed / folded when not in use

Fires must only be lit in designated areas

No burning material to be removed from fires

No running around the activity site

Protective gloves to be used when handling hot items

Fires must be completely extinguished before the group departs

All rubbish to be removed from the site

Requirements

Adequate fresh water for drinking, washing and extinguishing fires

First aid and burns kit

Loo kit or access to toilets

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The risk assessment must be reviewed on arrival on site to take into account prevailing conditions and recent changes, and monitored throughout the activity session.

Risk	Control
Burn by fire	Briefing & supervision Appropriate behaviour Control of fire Water available to control / extinguish fire & treat burns immediately
Burn by hot object	Briefing & supervision Appropriate behaviour Protective gloves
Scald	Briefing & supervision Appropriate behaviour Protective gloves
Cuts from knife/saw/axe	Briefing & supervision Appropriate behaviour Designated cutting area Cutting tools sheathed / folded when not in use
Cuts from bracken	Gloves to be worn when pulling bracken
Smoke in eyes whilst cooking around camp fire, extra risk of burning another participant	Clear briefing to group; To close eyes if smoke comes near, do NOT just stand up holding a hot object, wait for smoke to clear and then move.
Slips, trips & bumps	Appropriate footwear Appropriate behaviour Identification of trip hazard areas and inclusion in instructor briefing Suitable route choice to and from bushcraft area
Bites, stings & allergic reactions	Avoid contact with known allergens [plants / sap Avoid contact with stinging plants / insects and biting insects
Food poisoning	Appropriate food selection Good food hygiene Supervision

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Effects of weather – cold, heat, sun	<p>Appropriate clothing</p> <p>Warm & waterproof clothing always carried</p> <p>Sun hats & sufficient water in hot conditions</p> <p>Shelter as appropriate</p>
Environmental impact	<p>Site selection</p> <p>Source materials appropriately</p> <p>Briefing & monitoring</p> <p>Care with fires, designated fire area, extinguish fully at the end of session</p>

Risk Assessments Specific to Venues ontop of General Risk Assessment above:

Severn Trent Site: Llyn Clywedog

Drowning	<p>Clear instructions to the group of area of use at the site, specific instruction about staying away from the water unless specific instructed to collect water (must be gone in a ground not as individual)</p>
Fall from Crag	<p>Small crag (2-3 meters)</p> <p>Instruction to be given to stay of the steeper slopes around the venue. Monitored continually throughout the session</p>
Slips on Boardwalk	<p>Public access boardwalk which is used to gain access to the site can become slippy when wet or covered in leaves. Instructors to brief groups to not run along this section, continued monitoring</p>

Broneirion Site: Llandinam

Other Groups	<p>Other Groups such as corporate day meetings may be using the site.</p> <p>Broneirion must be clear to other visiting groups as to not go into children’s area and vice versa for safeguarding issues</p>
Driveway	<p>Students and instructors need to be aware of the driveway running through the site and brief groups accordingly. Monitored throughout the session.</p>

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Llanidloes Forest Site: Llanidloes Powys

Public Access	The forest is a part of public access land which is often used for dog walking. Instructors need to be aware of the general public and to be very clear on where students can and can't go. Students should always be in site of teacher/leaders/instructors.
Car Park	Parking area just off busy main road. Clear briefing from instructor to groups on where to go and students are not to go onto the road.