

Risk Assessment: Fishing

	Fishing	Completed by:	Morgan Lax	Date:	14 th April 2025	Review Date:	15 th April 2027
--	---------	---------------	------------	-------	-----------------------------	--------------	-----------------------------

Description of site / activity / tools:

Fishing is a method of catching food within the bushcraft movement; and can be achieved in a variety of ways: beach casting; laying long lines; hand lines from SUP; float fishing or a trailing line from a canoe. In this instance it is likely to be used at an inland fishing venue, such as Lockwood Beck, the River Esk, Buzzer's Pond, Carr's Tilery, Scaling Dam- on a 1:1 ratio with a pupil who attends weekly sessions, as well as with small groups.

	Hazard	Harm	People at Risk	Existing Control Measure	Likelihood (1-3)	Severity (1-3)	Rating LxS (1-9)	New Control Measure Who? When?	Comments
1.	Working bankside in the riparian area	Bacteria/Weil's Disease	All	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Verbal warning Hand cleaning products available Controlled lunch time/eating Avoiding areas that have higher likelihood of Weil's disease Avoid wetting of lines/knots with saliva 	2	2	4		
2.	Handling fishing tackle (hooks)	Injury	Participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> First aid kit available Verbal warning provided Demonstration given Rod/whip is stable when working on the link Hooks will mainly be barbless 	2	2	4		The wearing of gloves is impractical due to the dexterity needed to tie the lines
3.	Casting	Injury due to hook	Participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> First aid kit available Verbal warning provided Demonstration given Spacing on the bank to ensure suitable safe area Check behind is encouraged 	2	2	4		
4.	Proximity to water	Unexpected swimming/drowning	Participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Suitable stable working area identified Staff trained in water-based activities, including rescue Verbal warning provided Rescue equipment located in vicinity 	2	2	4		
5.	Adverse weather	Hot/cold injuries, lightening strike	Participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Suitable clothing to be worn Weather forecast checked for comfort reasons and to ensure no safety risk is present If lightening occurs rods are left and 	2	2	4		

				a safe location is taken					
6.	Requirements of rod licences and permits	Legal penalty	Rewilding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EA Rod licence purchased for each rod used Permit for each participant is purchased 	1	2	2		
7.	Handling fish	Injury to hands	Participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Verbal warning First aid kit available Safe handling techniques are shown Fish in controlled position before being unhooked Barbless hooks used so as to make unhooking as simple as possible 	2	2	4		<p>Examples: Perch- spines in dorsal fin and gill plates. Pike: abrasive gill rakers and sharp teeth (saliva is known to have an anti-coagulant property)</p> <p>The wearing of gloves or handling fish with a towel have too much of a negative effect on the fish- so are ruled out here.</p>
8.	Working in tidal zone	Swept off feet	Participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Verbal warning Tide, tide height and swell conditions monitored and we are aware of peak times Venues with piers may be used as an alternative 	2	2	4		The established times of sea fishing/beach casting are 2 hours before and 2 hours after high tide
9.	Extreme Cold/Frozen Lakes	Cold Water Submersion and Entrapment	All	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The risk and need to stay off ice is explicitly discussed with participants Rescue equipment located nearby Alternative activities considered Use of fishing pegs that are free from ice/not slippery (to prevent slipping into water) Bank based methods of breaking swims used 	1	4	4		<p>This has been included in the light of recent events in Solihull, where 4 children have lost their lives as a result of fallen through ice.</p> <p>Prevention is far better than cure, with the caveat that warming/re-warming resources will be available when operating in colder weather</p>
10.	Supervision and Skill	Unsafe Practice	All	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff are suitable skilled in activity Staff are trained in water-based/paddlesport activities to access the environment Staff monitor practice, making interventions where necessary 					Staff training includes both angling, as well as paddlesport- in particular rescue skills

				• A ratio of 1:4 is adopted					
Comments/Concerns:					Recommendations:				