Risk Assessment – Minibeast Hunting

To be read in conjunction with other risk generic assessments i.e. General Welfare and Weather, Daily/ Site Specific and emergency site information.

Risk Benefit: What is the benefit to the children of offering this experience? Raises the confidence of participants, teaches risk management, teaches team work, gives a sense of achievement and independence, teaches about habitats, teaches about pollution, experiential learning opportunity, teaches preparation, participants gain appreciation of native insects and animals.				
Probability Score: 1. <5% chance that it will occur – very unlikely 2. 25% chance that it will occur 3. 50% chance that it will occur 4. 75% chance that it will occur 5. >95% chance that it will occur – very likely	**Severity Score** 1. Not serious – no first aid required 2. Minor Injury – requiring basic first aid 3. Injury – requiring non immediate professional medical attention 4. Serious injury/multiple injuries – requiring immediate medical attention 5. Major accident – multiple injuries or fatality		**Calculate the risk levels:** The rating is calculated from the probability multiplied by the severity which will give a rating between 1 & 25. Our Forest School will not be carrying out any activities deemed to have a revised rating of over 12 as they are deemed too dangerous	
Hazard	**Who is at risk and from what?**	**Risk Rating (Probability x Severity =)**	**Control measures to reduce the risk and actioned by whom?**	**Revised Risk Rating (Probability x Severity =)**
Slips and trips	Cuts, lacerations, or head injuries	3 x 4 = 12	Staff to: • Advise participants of any known trip hazards and avoid areas with great amounts of hazards (such as areas with rabbit holes) • Ensure all participants are wearing suitable foot wear • Advise participants to walk rather than run	1 x 4 = 4
Dangerous plants	At worst could be fatal as some plants are toxic. Could also cause allergic reactions	5x5=25	Staff to: • Show participants any plants they need to avoid • Remind participants of the no pick no lick rule	1x5=5

			• Be made aware of seriously harmful plants such as giant hogweed and know what to do if it appears on site	
Falling branches	Cuts and bruises, head injury	2x5=10	Sessions to be postponed if the wind is stronger than 7 on beaufort scale. Staff to be aware of Beech trees self pollarding in late spring and to keep participants away from Beech trees during that time. Staff to dynamically risk assess and carry out regular sweeps checking for damaged, diseased or fallen branches.	1x5=5
Handling logs	Splinters, dropping logs onto feet, damaging back by lifting something too heavy	4x2=8	• Staff to lift large logs that are too big for participants, but not if they are also too big for the member of staff, just leave those ones and find another to look under. • All logs to be replaced exactly as they were	2x2=4
Insects or snakes	Bites or stings leading to allergic reactions	5x5	Participants and staff advised to wear insect repellant if they react badly to insect bites and wear suitable footwear. Staff to: • Carry consent forms with them which contain participant's medical information including allergies. • Hold a first aid certificate and know how to use an EpiPen.	1x5=5

			• Advise participants on the rare but potential danger of snakes and importance not to make the snake feel trapped or aggravated. **Snake Bites** If someone is bitten by a snake, they must be taken to A&E or have ambulance called immediately. They must do the following: • Remain calm, most snake bites in UK are treatable and not serious • Don't move the part of the body that was bitten • Lie in recovery position • Remember the colour and pattern of the snake to tell health professionals when asked • Take off jewelry and loosen clothes near to the bite in case of swelling • Paracetamol can be taken for any pain if appropriate consent is given **Tick bites** Symptoms of a tick bite can include: • a small red lump on the skin • swelling • itchiness • blistering • bruising Ticks can carry a potentially serious infection called Lyme disease, so they should be removed as soon as possible if you find one attached to your skin. Participants/their parents should be advised to contact their GP if any symptoms of Lyme disease develop, such as a rash that looks like a "bull's-eye on a dartboard" or a fever.	

Date : 4/10/2026 Signed by: liz cooke