


Location:	Leicester Outdoor Pursuits Centre	Date of Assessment:	4/7/14	Last Reviewed:	November 23 CM	Name of Assessor:	Chris Murnin
Activity:	Bushcraft - Knives, Saws and Axes	Assessment Reference No:	4.58			Signature of Assessor:	

ITEM/ HAZARD	CONTROL MEASURES
Bushcraft knives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Clear Safety Briefing and guidance on how to use the tool with emphasis on always cutting away from the body. ▪ Participants are to be made aware of others around them, and must not work any closer to anyone than the length of their arm plus the length of their knife. ▪ Dedicated work area highlighted at the start. ▪ Knives must be sheathed when not in use. ▪ Introduce and reinforce a 'STOP' Command. ▪ Close supervision at all times.. ▪ Instructor must ensure adequate spacing between group ▪ Instructor to brief the group on the appropriate stance, either kneeling, seated (cutting off to one side) or standing. ▪ Do not move around with an unsheathed knife. ▪ Tools to be stored in a locked box and only issued when necessary and collected after use. ▪ Gloves can be used to protect the "non knife" hand. ▪ First Aid kit must be present.
Bow saw	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Clear Safety Briefing and guidance on how to use the tool. ▪ A glove can be used to protect the non-sawing hand. ▪ If the back of the blade is free from sharp burrs and edges, Place brace hand through the saw until the blade is fully embedded in the wood. ▪ Always question where will the blade go if it slips? ▪ Start sawing gently, increasing pressure once the saw has developed a groove. ▪ Ensure a safe working distance, with non participants out of the area. ▪ Blade to be covered when not in use. ▪ First Aid kit must be present.



Folding saw	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Clear Safety Briefing and guidance on how to use the tool. ▪ Check locking mechanism is functioning prior to use ▪ A glove can be used to protect the non-sawing hand. ▪ Always question where will the blade go if it slips? ▪ Ensure a safe working distance, with non participants out of the area. ▪ Blade to be closed when not in use. ▪ First Aid kit must be present.
Axe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Full instruction and close supervision provided to participants that have not used axes before. ▪ Supervision maintained for all. ▪ Axes kept sharp and handles regularly checked for cracks/damage ▪ Axe work to take place in specified area only. ▪ Maximum group size of 6. ▪ Blade to be covered when not in use. ▪ First Aid kit must be present. ▪ Bystanders remain at a safe distance outside the cutting area.
Transportation and storage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ All knives kept sheathed / closed when not in use. ▪ Knives kept in a locked box when not in use. ▪ All saw/ axe blades kept covered when not in use.
Further risks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ All risks should be minimised by continual appraisal of participants' condition, the environment and equipment through dynamic risk assessment by the staff members involved. ▪ Some risks still remain but every care must be taken to minimise these.

