

# RISK ASSESSMENT

Department	Communities and Families, Sports and Outdoor Education.	Unit/Section	Lagganlia Outdoor Learning Centre
Date of assessment	Original Dated 2006 Reviewed March 2021, Reviewed August 2023, Reviewed April 2025.	Assessor(s)	Original Document: Graeme Douglas Latest Reviewed by: Nick March (April 2025)
What is the activity?	Site led Introductory journey and associated activities. This will include a walk on foot around Lagganlia site and surrounding area. Associated activities include all introductions to Free Time activities. Please see Free Time Activity RA as well. This activity is associated with all incoming Outdoor Education Residential Courses	Where is the activity carried out?	Lagganlia grounds, Highland Council Woods, Sawdust Pool, Feshiebridge journey and associated introductory activities

What are the hazards?	Who might be harmed and how?	What are you already doing?	What further action is necessary?	Action by whom?	Action by when?	Done
Adverse weather	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Instructor</li> <li>Student</li> <li>Member of Staff</li> </ul> <p>Exposure injuries, weather related injuries, (Hot and cold)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Brief Group in pre alarm introductory talk on appropriate clothing for current weather.</li> <li>Instructor assessment of their groups clothing following fire alarm</li> <li>Check forecast and plan route accordingly.</li> </ul>				

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Carry sufficient equipment to deal with unexpected or changeable weather.</li> <li>• Staff understand best practice when it comes to rare, but extreme, weather conditions – hail, lightning or torrential rain.</li> </ul>				
Trips and slips	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Instructor</li> <li>• Student</li> <li>• Member of staff</li> </ul> <p>Being in the outdoors means there are many, often unpredictable, underfoot trip and slip hazards. For example; uneven surfaces, branches, rocks, or snow and ice in winter. A lack of awareness or a distraction may turn these into a hazard.</p> <p><b>Injuries sustained may include: Impact injuries, twist, breaks, sprains, cuts and bruises.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participants are briefed before the scheduled fire alarm to dress appropriately for the weather. This includes students' personal outdoor footwear (no slippers or sandals).</li> <li>• The journey is led by competent Lagganlia instructional staff who will choose an appropriate route that will encompass a variety of terrain. The exact route choice will depend on weather and under foot conditions.</li> <li>• Staff will give appropriate briefings and adapt their leadership for the variety of terrain and weather encountered.</li> <li>• In winter conditions, there is grit and shovels available for all to use, at the door of every lodge and in the carpark. Conditions can change rapidly, so all adults on site can use the available resources to keep the site safe. This applies</li> </ul>	More spare trainers for summer time when students are increasingly bringing sandals or crocs.	May 2023		

		to tarmacked and decking through the site.				
Forestry Operations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Instructor</li> <li>• Student</li> <li>• Member of staff</li> </ul> <p>Injury from machines, crush injuries.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Obey all signs from forestry contractors.</li> <li>• Brief on hazards from forestry operations.</li> <li>• A constant vigilance while in forestry areas for further hazards.</li> <li>• Use areas where there are no expected operations.</li> </ul>	Forestry operations are always challenging as they can be highly hazardous, or no hazard at all, depending on the activity on site. If in any doubt, instructors are advised to avoid any observed hazards they are unsure of.	Forestry Operations		
Cold Deep Moving Water (River Feshie)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Instructor</li> <li>• Student</li> <li>• Member of staff</li> </ul> <p>Cold water immersion, hypothermia, drowning. Impact injuries, twist, breaks, sprains, cuts and bruises.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Journey Assessment and route choice must take into account season, weather, water levels and river flow.</li> <li>• Instructor led activities may include foot paddling and stone skimming at River Feshie Beach locations. These activities must be instructor led and prevent river access that could lead to immersion or being lost to river flow. Appropriate location choice is essential following consideration of weather and water level.</li> </ul>				

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Swimming is not associated with this activity and is not allowed. River swimming is covered in a separate activity RA.</li> </ul>				
Unforeseen Medical attack	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Instructor</li> <li>Student</li> <li>Member of staff</li> </ul> <p>Examples include Asthma Attack, Diabetic Hypo, allergic reaction</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Instructors attend pre course staff meeting where all medical conditions and allergies are shared</li> <li>Pre Alarm brief instruction for all student to collect medications from their visiting school / group staff.</li> <li>Lagganlia staff to ensure all required or appropriate medication is taken on journey</li> <li>Lagganlia staff to carry centre issued emergency Asthma Kit.</li> </ul>				
Injury from branches and brushings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Instructor</li> <li>Student</li> <li>Member of staff</li> </ul> <p>Impact injuries, blood injuries</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hazards of branches highlighted</li> <li>Emergency procedure briefed</li> <li>Choose locations to avoid brushing areas.</li> </ul>				
Getting lost	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Young people</li> <li>Visiting adults</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This is an instructor led activity. Group management and leadership must ensure</li> </ul>				

	<p>As the site does not have obvious physical boundaries on all sides, there is the possibility that people could walk off site without realising. The immediate local area has strong features, like the Glen Feshie road and the River Feshie which could limit the impact, but people could still get disorientated and feel lost while only a short distance from the centre.</p> <p>Being lost, psychological injury, worry, stress, raised anxiety.</p>	<p>that no group member is lost through this activity.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Accurate number counting throughout journey. Especially around significant directional changes.</li> <li>• Intended route and activities must be recorded in staff base as per SOP.</li> <li>•</li> </ul>				
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What are the hazards?	Who might be harmed and how?	What are you already doing?	What further action is necessary?	Action by whom?	Action by when?	Done
<p>Being hit by a vehicle on site</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Instructor</li> <li>• Student</li> <li>• Member of Staff</li> </ul> <p>The site is not very busy with traffic, but transport onto and away from site is necessary and deliveries are inevitable. As the space is shared with young people and the tarmac areas are both 'road' and 'path' there is a possibility of conflict.</p> <p>Impact injuries, twist, breaks, sprains, cuts and bruises. Unconsciousness, death.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lagganlia Instructor leading journey and raising awareness of traffic. This will also directly contribute to Free Time Activity Control Measures.</li> <li>• Onsite speed limit must be enforced.</li> <li>• Speed bumps in good condition to ensure speed limit is observed.</li> <li>• Good all-around awareness by drivers on site.</li> <li>• The use of a banks-person is strongly advised when reversing.</li> </ul>				

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Young people should be made aware of traffic on-site.</li> </ul>				
Being hit by a vehicle on boundary roads	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Instructor</li> <li>• Student</li> <li>• Member of Staff</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The journey may travel down or cross boundary roads to Donut car park or local woods</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Impact injuries, twist, breaks, sprains, cuts and bruises. Unconsciousness, death.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Appropriate group management and leadership when crossing or journey on road.</li> <li>• Judgement of appropriateness of activity in poor or fading light.</li> <li>• Try to stay off road and on verge where available.</li> <li>• Highlight risks and give brief to participants on single track roads, how to step out of road and appropriate behaviours through activity.</li> <li>• Use opportunity to insert control measures for Free Time Activity RA.</li> </ul>				
Fall from height (e.g. Bouldering wall, slackline, trees)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Student</li> <li>• Member of Staff</li> <li>• Instructor</li> </ul> <p>The inclusion of the bouldering wall and the slackline as free time areas means that there is a possibility of a fall from height. Both of these challenges only allow access to a limited height. The slackline is approximately 60cm above the ground and the climbing wall could allow access to approximately 1m height. Falls from this low height could cause injury.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Instructor led activity.</li> <li>• The instructor will be using this as opportunity to lead activity and introduce Free Time Activity control measures.</li> <li>• Students are not encouraged to climb trees.</li> <li>• On the bouldering wall, students may only climb the height of the holds, meaning that they are low to the ground.</li> <li>• The ground immediately under the bouldering wall, or</li> </ul>				

	Impact injuries, twist, breaks, sprains, cuts and bruises, Unconsciousness, death.	<p>slackline, is clear of obstructions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is clear signage on the slackline on how it should be used safely.</li> <li>• The ground immediately under the slackline is clear of obstructions.</li> <li>• Only one person is allowed on each section of the slackline at a time.</li> <li>• A student may be supervised by another student.</li> <li>• Both the climbing wall and the slackline should be checked regularly to ensure they are suitable condition.</li> </ul>				
Ticks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Instructor</li> <li>• Student</li> <li>• Member of staff</li> </ul> <p>Infected bite, Lymes Disease</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Brief participants re: tick hazard and what to do should they get bitten by one.</li> <li>• Encourage sensible clothing choices to best prevent ticks biting quickly.</li> </ul> <p>Encourage participants to do tick checks regularly, especially after activity.</p>				
Fighting or bullying behaviour	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Instructor</li> <li>• Student</li> <li>• Member of Staff</li> </ul> <p>This activity often takes place as the beginning of the Instructor Group relationship. Boundaries expected behaviours are yet to be established.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Instructors attend pre course staff meeting where behaviours of concern, school behavioural policy and values are shared.</li> <li>• Instructors lead early session on behavioural expectations, controls via an appropriate method.</li> </ul>				

	<p>As a residential centre, there is a different degree of intensity in young people's lives. The usual avenues of escape and coping are not in place. This can lead to an increased likelihood of conflict among young people.</p> <p><b>Cuts and bruises. Impact injuries.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Students are aware of where visiting staff are, and how they can request access if required.</li> </ul>				
Doors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Instructor</li> <li>• Student</li> <li>• Member of Staff</li> </ul> <p>Constant traffic through residential areas raises the likelihood of injuries - Both person to person collisions, and through door related injuries are possible.</p> <p><b>Cuts, grazes and bruises. Crush and impact injuries.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Instructor Led activity to support free time activities.</li> <li>• Young people are briefed as to the challenges that doors can bring, with particular note on trapped fingers in hinges and toes under doors.</li> <li>• Young people are encouraged to use the windows in doors to check traffic before opening and shutting doors.</li> </ul>				
Hot Water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Instructor</li> <li>• Student</li> <li>• Member of Staff</li> </ul> <p>Hot water is ever present in a residential setting. Drinks, food stuffs e.g. soups, and as an integral part of activities (using flasks, making drinks during bushcraft) all have the potential to cause injury.</p> <p><b>Burns and scalds</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Young people are strongly warned not to use the hot water appliances – kettles in lodges, and the urn in the juice bar.</li> <li>• When flasks are used, young people should be advised of how to use the flask. It should not be assumed that they understand how they work, or how they should be used.</li> <li>• .</li> </ul>				

**Are other specific risk assessments required?**

Asbestos	<input type="checkbox"/>	Control of Substances Hazardous to Health	<input type="checkbox"/>	Display Screen Equipment	<input type="checkbox"/>
Electricity	<input type="checkbox"/>	Fire Safety	<input type="checkbox"/>	Lone Working	<input type="checkbox"/>
Manual Handling	<input type="checkbox"/>	New and Expectant Mothers	<input type="checkbox"/>	Noise	<input type="checkbox"/>
Personal Protective Equipment	<input type="checkbox"/>	Stress Management	<input type="checkbox"/>	Vibration	<input type="checkbox"/>
Work Equipment	<input type="checkbox"/>	Workplace Health, Safety and Welfare	<input type="checkbox"/>	Working at Height	<input type="checkbox"/>

Manager's name	Nick March	Signature	
Date	April 2025	Assessment review date	As per changes in practice, or in reflection on an incident, or July 2026 – whichever is soonest.