



Risk assessment – activity outside normal meeting place – TOMAHAWK at CATTERBURN – FOR PARTICIPANTS

This is the risk assessment for Tomahawk for those booking at Catterburn or using Catterburn instructors at another venue.

People potentially at risk: All staff, volunteers, members, visitors, members of the public and anyone else the activity may impact. It is recognised that not all risks are foreseeable and there is always need for dynamic risk assessment during the activity. Additional risks identified through dynamic risk assessment should be recorded as soon as possible after they have been identified and assessed.

Name of Venue	Catterburn
Activity covered by the risk assessment	Tomahawk
Name of person completing the risk assessment	Sarah Dickson – LV Adventure Dunbartonshire County
Date and timings of activity	March 2026 – March 2027
Location of activity including postcode	Catterburn Campsite, Croftamie. G63 OHG
Numbers participating/Ratios	Instructors = minimum 2. Participants = maximum 16 across all targets. (4 participants to each Instructor/Rangemaster to be in place if more than 2 targets being used.
Activity Leader	Must hold PVG, 1 st Response, qualified GG Tomahawk Instructor award.
First Aid Cover	Min. 1 instructor with GG 1 st Response. Grab bag with appropriate 1 st aid equipment nearby.
Contingency plans in case of bad weather	If weather unsuitable, too windy or wet – the instructor will stop/not start the session.

NB – ‘Hawks’ is used throughout this document: for avoidance of doubt, the term ‘Hawks’ covers Tomahawks, Angel Hawks and Axes

Factors contributing to risk	Control measures What is, should or could be put in place to control the risk?	Local action required	Confirm local controls in place, or actions being taken and who is taking them	Date completed
Tomahawk as an adventurous activity	Tomahawk is an adventurous activity under GGUK's policy so GGUK guidance must be followed.	Information on risks, safety and behaviour guidelines will be shared with the participants and their leaders before starting every session. It is the group leader's responsibility to ensure that the group follows the instructor's directions at all times.	Instructor/Unit leader	
Additional support needs of participants	Groups booking will be asked to identify any additional support needs in advance so that appropriate adjustments can be made. Group leaders should have adjustment plans for Girlguiding members that can be used to agree adjustments required to take part in archery.	Group leader to identify to the instructor participants with additional support needs so that a support plan can be put in place. Ideally, this will happen in advance of the session. Group leader will ensure that there are sufficient adults available to support both individuals with additional support needs and the other participants in the group.	Instructor/Unit leader	
Control, compliance and safety of participants	Shooting line and range checked for trip hazards before each session. No running allowed. Walk down the side of the range not on it. Comply with instructions on how to carry hawks Comply with instructions on how to place equipment when not in use. Those not actively throwing must stay in the designated waiting area.	If weather changes or it becomes too windy, archery activity will stop and leaders will be responsible for managing their group. If possible, the session will be delayed, brought forward or rescheduled, depending on the weather forecast. If the participants do not follow instructions given in the safety briefing, instructors will stop the activity and only continue when it is safe to do so. Excessive noise or movement can distract those shooting, so group leaders need to ensure those not shooting stay calm and still or else move away from the range.	Instructor/Unit leader	
Slips, trips & falls Falls onto hawks, angels or axes	Throwing line and range approach checked for trip hazards prior to session No running allowed on range. Sturdy shoes to be worn.	The instructor will explain hazards to observers and participants before the start of session and check that they are appropriately dressed. Those not appropriately dressed will be excluded from the session.	Instructor/Unit leader All tomahawk instructors are 1 st Aid trained.	

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	Clear instructions on how to hold and move with hawks. Only adults to move equipment about site.	Instructors will continually check that participants are complying with safety guidance. Any participants or observers not complying will be excluded from continuing until they behave safely.	1 st Aid kit bag kept with tomahawk equipment and on range when in use.	
Injury from dropping a hawk or angel	Closed toe footwear to be worn. Long hair to be tied back.	Instructors will continually check that participants are complying with safety guidance. Any participants or observers not complying will be excluded from continuing until they behave safely.	Instructor/Unit leader All tomahawk instructors are 1 st Aid trained. 1 st Aid kit bag kept with tomahawk equipment and on range when in use.	
Injury from a misfire, slip, rebound or line deviation	Minimum throwing distance from targets marked out. Appropriate weight hawks used for each person to reduce issues. Participant instructed how to throw correctly. Back waiting line/shelter area for observers and those waiting their turn enforced.	Instructors will continually check that participants are complying with safety guidance. Any participants or observers not complying will be excluded from continuing until they behave safely.	Instructor/Unit leader All tomahawk instructors are 1 st Aid trained. 1 st Aid kit bag kept with tomahawk equipment and on range when in use.	
Injury from hawk thrown directly at people	Minimum throwing distance from targets marked out. Those who deliberately overshoot or misfire or fire at people to be withdrawn from activity.	Clear instructions and good group control from instructor. Awareness of the potential for harm Establishment and enforcement of throwing & waiting lines Close supervision at all times. Age- and ability-appropriate use of equipment	Instructor/Unit leader All tomahawk instructors are 1 st Aid trained. 1 st Aid kit bag kept with tomahawk equipment and on range when in use.	

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		and activities Activity stopped if behaviour inappropriate.		
Cuts from spare hawks, hawks thrown short or stuck in the ground	Rangemaster in place is more than 2 targets in use. Appropriate footwear to be worn. Hawks kept by instructor or locked away when not in use eg break time and never left unattended. Hawks to be counted out and back in.	Clear instructions given on collection procedures. Groups to walk down the side of the range. Short-fall hawks to be retrieved from range first. Close supervision from activity instructors at all times.	Instructor/Unit leader All tomahawk instructors are 1 st Aid trained. 1 st Aid kit bag kept with tomahawk equipment and on range when in use.	
Cuts or other injury when removing hawks from target	Stable targets to be used and checked before, during and after use Demonstrations and instructions on how to safely remove hawks from targets. Only those deemed competent allowed to remove hawks. Appropriate footwear to be worn.	Groups to walk down the side of the range. Short-fall hawks to be retrieved from range first. Close supervision from activity instructors	Instructor/Unit leader All tomahawk instructors are 1 st Aid trained. 1 st Aid kit bag kept with tomahawk equipment and on range when in use.	
Splinters from worn or damaged hawks or targets	Good standard of equipment purchased. Pre-season kit checks and maintenance by instructors.	Visual check before and after each outing on the range. Instructors to supervise participants at all times. Faulty or unsafe equipment to be removed from use.	Instructor/Unit leader All tomahawk instructors are 1 st Aid trained. 1 st Aid kit bag kept with tomahawk equipment and on range when in use.	
Serious injury or fatality	Procedure to be put in place: 1 st Aider/s tend to casualty.	The command or whistle to signal stop or emergency will be demonstrated at the start of	Instructor/Unit leader All instructors briefed on procedure to	

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	Activity will stop immediately – use agreed command or whistle to signal to others on site of an emergency. Dial 999 to call ambulance. Group leaders to move everyone away from the incident area to a safe place and to stay with them, leaving all tomahawk equipment behind. Instructor to ensure equipment is securely stored. Unit leader to locate health form in case information is needed by emergency services. This information will also be needed to complete incident form for GGUK. The instructor and the group leader will agree who will call Safeguarding at GGUK to report the incident.	the session. Everyone to comply with all requests of emergency services	follow.	
Environmental allergens, E.coli & farm animal waste, especially in use of farmers' fields	Avoid direct contact with animal excrement. No eating in fields where there have been animals. Hands must be washed before returning to accommodation. Boots/shoes must be washed if contaminated.	Group leaders to supervise all groups and observe/assist with hand washing. Range and nearby area will be checked before use.	Instructor/Unit leader	
Additional risks from use of Soft Tomahawk equipment	Danger from thrown objects Follow all procedures for regular tomahawk activity Be aware of increased risk of ricochet from	Activity leaders (likely to be the unit leader) to check equipment and set up clear range in area to be used and supervise group closely.	Leaders to supervise group closely 1st Aider and 1st Aid kit to be on range at all times when in use	

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	impact with walls and ceilings if indoors Take care folding targets to avoid finger entrapment			
Insurance	Participants are covered by Girlguiding Liability Insurance	Tomahawk activity at Catterburn is run by Girlguiding trained instructors and participants are covered by Girlguiding liability insurance.		

By completing and filling in controls and dating this form, you agree that you've tried your best to think about risks and put measures in place to manage them as far as is reasonably practical

Name of person completing risk assessment:	Sarah Dickson	Membership number:	21633248
Role:	LV Adventure Dunbartonshire County	Date review initially completed:	17.02.2026
Signature*: <i>SarahDickson</i>			

* Both electronic and wet ink signatures are acceptable.

Review history

Date	Signature	Summary of changes