RISK BENEFIT ASSESSMENT – Billhook

**Low risk- Something resulting in a minor injury eg a scratch or a bruise**

**Medium risk- something resulting in significant loss/ damage or an injury such as a broken bone which requires hospital treatment**

**High risk- something that results in extensive loss/ damage, multiple injuries or death**

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| Location/ Activity: | Stoneydelph Forest School | Date: | December 2021 |
| FS Leader: | Mrs J Parry | Review Date: | December 2022 |

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| Activity | How will young people BENEFIT from the activity? | Possible Hazards | Overall risk ratings  Low/ Med/ High | Who is at risk? | Precautions in place to reduce risk of injury | Risk rating following precautions |
| Transporting the billhook | Children having the opportunity to select, collect and return their own tool gives them a deeper sense of ownership over the activity | Dropping of the tool/damaging it  Removing the sheath or cover before the child is a safe working distance from others | Medium | Children/ adults | Tool talk to demonstrate/  verbally state correct carrying procedure  Children only allowed to carry tool away from tool storage area in the correct holding position  Clear adult modelling | Low |
| Removing the sheath or cover from the billhook | Removing the cover safely and independently gives the child opportunity to assess the risk for themselves and carry out their own safety check. This includes the safety of other children as they need to check that other children are a safe working distance away. | Cuts or lacerations from the blade | Medium | Children/ adults | Tool talk to demonstrate/verbally state the correct sheath or cover removal procedure  Adult may add tape to remind children to hold the lower half of the sheath and avoid touching the blade | Low |
| Working with the billhook | Use of the billhook will enable children to produce woodland crafts | Cuts or lacerations from the blade  Bruising from the mallet making contact | Medium | Children/ adults | Tool talk to give the children instructions on the safe use of the billhook  FS leader to constantly observe the safe working position of the group  No one will be allowed to unsheathe their billhook until they are seated in a safe, stable position  Children reminded to use eye contact and communication before the mallet is applied to the billhook | Low |
| Returning the billhook to the sheath or cover | The learners will understand the method for safely cleaning and packing away tools. | Cuts or lacerations from the saw blade | Medium | Children/ adults | Learners will be shown a demonstration of safely re sheathing the billhook in the tool talk  The leader will remind the children of the safest way to wrap the billhook if covering | Low |

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