

	Title of risk assessment	.177 CALIBRE AIR RIFLE SHOOTING	Current risk rating	LOW
	Site / Location / address	Lees Wood Scout & Guide Activity Centre Fir Tree Hill, Chandler's Cross, Rickmansworth WD3 4LY	Date of assessment	22 Jan 2025
People who have contributed to the detail of this risk assessment (continue on separate sheet if necessary): All those who may be affected including, where applicable, people supported have been consulted with during the completion of this document and arrangements.		Risk assessment reference number		LW_A_004_AR
		www.scouts.org.uk POR 9.1 Activities POR 9.11 Target Sports POR 9.11.5 Shooting NYRSA Instructor Manual		
<p>Location</p> <p>1. This activity takes place on a purpose-built range that provides a safe enclosed area.</p> <p>Equipment</p> <p>2. POR Rules concerning airgun shooting other than as an activity of a Home Office Approved club specifically limits calibre to .177 inch or less.</p> <p>The reasons for this are as follows:</p> <p>3. For target shooting at paper targets a standard calibre is used to enable fair competition (all pellets make similar sized holes); .177 inch is the internationally recognised calibre for this purpose.</p> <p>4. The maximum permitted muzzle energy for air rifles not requiring a Firearms Certificate is 12 ft/lb, regardless of calibre. .22 air rifles are generally made with muzzle energies near this limit so that they are most effective against live quarry. The muzzle energy of a .177-inch air rifle designed for target shooting at 6 yards or 10 metres may be around half this value.</p> <p>5. A typical .177 pellet will lose its energy through aerodynamic drag more quickly than a .22 pellet of the same muzzle energy. This means that over longer distances a negligent loose shot with a .177 pellet presents a lesser hazard.</p> <p>6. Lees Wood Scout & Guide Activity Centre cannot permit personal weapons to be brought or used on site.</p> <p>Pellet Type</p> <p>7. POR also specifies that the pellets used must be 'diablo shaped' and of soft deformable metal such as lead; flat head pellets are the standard used in target shooting competitions. This is to minimise the risks of bounce-back from the target area. Tests have shown that pellets of some other types, notably steel BB and plastic Zaps, rebound badly from traditional steel target boxes.</p> <p>Security</p> <p>8. It's a legal requirement to keep airguns and ammunition secure when they are not in use. Unsupervised access by young people must be prevented. This will involve keeping airguns under lock and key when not in use.</p> <p>9. For permanent storage in an HQ or campsite a dedicated and robust cupboard or other container fixed in a permanent lockable building is recommended. Its purpose should not be apparent from the outside. It is good practice to store airguns and pellets separately. Only those over 18 should be allowed access.</p> <p>10. Where there is no practicable alternative to short term storage in vehicles, guns and pellets should be hidden, preferably in a separately locked area of each vehicle, such as a car boot. If a choice of several vehicles is available, choose those with alarms fitted. Remember that security under lock and key is only as good as the security of the keys. Keys protecting guns must be protected to the same standards as if they were the guns themselves and not left accessible to young people.</p> <p>Legal Requirements</p> <p>11. All shooters under 18 years old must have parental permission and they must sign to say the young person is not subject to any restrictions under the relevant law. The site-provided form and procedures must be used.</p>				

Holders of any of the following qualifications may supervise target shooting as a Scout activity within the currency and scope of the qualification(s) held: (Please note: The running of activities must be within the boundaries of the qualification(s) the Range Officer holds. For example, those who only hold the YPS Tutor Air Rifle qualification cannot run Air Pistol activities.)

National Small-bore Rifle Association (NSRA):

(All qualifications valid for only 5 years from date of issue unless renewed)

- Youth Proficiency Scheme (YPS) Tutor - Air Rifle
- Youth Proficiency Scheme (YPS) Tutor - Air Pistol
- Youth Proficiency Scheme Tutor Trainer
- Range Conducting Officer
- Club Instructor*
- Club Coach*
- County Coach*
- Regional Coach*
- Coach Educator*

*These qualifications also require a current range management qualification (Range Conducting Officer or YPS Tutor) to be valid.

National Rifle Association (NRA):

- Club Instructor
- Range Conducting Officer
- Range Conducting Officer Assessor

Clay Pigeon Shooting Association (CPSA):

- Safety Officer

British Association for Shooting and Conservation (BASC):

- Airgun Coach
- Safety Officer

The Muzzle Loaders Association of Great Britain:

- Approved Instructor

His Majesty's (H.M.) Armed Forces and the Cadet Forces (Sea Cadet Corps - SCC, Army Cadet Force Association - ACF, Combined Cadet Force Association - CCF and Air Training Corps - ATC):

(Qualification only valid whilst serving in the Armed Forces/Cadet Forces)

- Range Conducting Officer

Police Forces:

(Qualification only valid whilst serving in the Police Forces)

- Range Conducting Officer

Name	Role / Position	Signature	Name	Role / Position	Signature	Short description of the task or activity			
Bruce Scott	Assistant Warden (Risk)	BDS				Specific Risk assessment: .177 Calibre Air Rifle Shooting This is an Instructor Led Activity			
Identify the hazards, who & what could be harmed and how						Assess the likelihood and risk			
Hazard		Who / What Could be harmed / damaged	Hazardous event	Reasonably foreseeable worse case injury	Existing controls: i.e. Safe systems of work, training, equipment instructions, support plans (be specific), other risk assessments i.e. COSHH, work at height, manual handling, etc.	Accidents, near-miss events, frequency of task/activity, gaps in existing controls, etc.	Likelihood (L) 1-5	Severity (S) 1-5	Risk Rating Score 1-25
1	General lifting and carrying targets	Instructors / Campsite Crew	Incorrect lifting techniques	Cuts / abrasions, muscular skeletal and other physical injuries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Manual handling minimised as far as possible, all made aware of correct lifting techniques to reduce risk of injury. Appropriate footwear worn Mobile lifting aids available (wheel barrows etc.) Good housekeeping and range layout. Floor surfaces unobstructed and slip free. Do not overstretch when using equipment. Targets weighted and secured to prevent toppling onto person retrieving equipment. 	None Recorded	3	3	9
2	Uneven Ground	Instructors / Campsite Crew / Participants	Slips, trips and falls on uneven surfaces	Cuts / abrasions, muscular skeletal and other physical injuries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Full inspection of range prior to use. Debris / grass cuttings stemming from weather / maintenance to be cleared as quickly as possible. Make sure activity area does not become untidy. Check activity area before starting. Suitable warning signs in place. Suitable footwear to be worn. Feet must be covered. Report any damage to range to enable inspection and repair. There will always be a responsible adult member of the visiting group present to support the children/young people. This 	None Recorded	3	2	6

					<p>adult will be responsible for the behaviour of the group. This adult will ensure the instructor leading the session knows about any medical conditions or additional needs the group members may have.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Instructors should not start the session until this adult is present. Visiting groups should provide first aid cover as they are responsible for the young people, however, Lees Wood will provide additional first aid cover on sessions run by Lees Wood instructors. NO RUNNING ON THE RANGE 				
3	Weather	Instructors / Campsite Crew / Participants	Extreme Weather (Heat, Cold, Wind, Lightening, Snow, torrential rain etc)	Sessions may have to be cancelled during periods of heavy rain and storms.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Instructor to be aware. Appropriate clothing to be worn by all involved. It may be appropriate to stop activities due to some extreme weather or if the group is not appropriate clothed for the environment. 	None Recorded	3	1	3
4	Unfamiliarity of the equipment	Participants	Improper use of equipment	Cuts / abrasions, muscular skeletal and other physical injuries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The instructor leading the session must be familiar with the equipment they are using. Lees Wood instructors are trained in the use of the equipment on the session. Demonstration to show correct use, body position and technique Safety Glasses to be worn when carrying out this activity. 	None Recorded	2	2	4
5	Defective Equipment Defective Equipment	Instructors / Campsite Crew / Participants	Damaged Rifles / Sights	Cuts / abrasions Impact injury	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Condition of ALL equipment checked before & after use. Participants deemed competent to use. Equipment not left unattended. Equipment is appropriate (being used for its intended purpose), restricted to authorised users and securely stored. Report any damage of equipment to enable replacement. Suitable footwear to be worn. Periodical inspection with any damaged or suspect equipment retired and repaired or replaced. Rifles checked for burs and damage Participants trained to only hold Rifles correctly. 	None Recorded	3	2	6

					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use of Rifles supervised by trained instructor Participants shown how to retrieve a target. 				
		Instructors / Campsite Crew / Participants	Entanglement	Cuts / abrasions Impact injury	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Long hair must be tied back; jewellery should be removed or covered and loose clothing secured. 	None Recorded	2	1	2
6	Actions of group members	Instructors / Campsite Crew / Participants	Unauthorised entry into the activity/danger area	Cuts / abrasions, muscular skeletal and other physical injuries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Activity area cordoned off when in use ensuring no possible entry whilst activity is being carried out. Waiting area is clearly marked. Area fenced off and group warned of any hazards. Visual checks of area by instructor throughout the session. 	None Recorded	3	1	3
			Bruising on the shoulder when shooting		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Correct shooting technique taught. Good Instructor awareness. Encourage long sleeves to be worn. 	None Recorded	2	2	4
			Improper use of equipment		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members not using the equipment appropriately will be asked to leave the Range Instruction area. 	None Recorded	2	2	4
			Participant lack of knowledge	Risk of injury	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Safety talk to be given by activity instructor before each session commences. 	None Recorded	1	2	2

			Participants being shot by a rifle during a session	Risk of serious injury	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Range complies with NSRA safety specifications and is to be set up following setup procedures <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Qualified instructors only to run rifles sessions (see below). 2. Instructor to assume the role of Range Officer, to run the session in accordance with their training and to be responsible for all aspects of safety during the activity. 3. All participants to be appropriately briefed prior to start of the activity 4. Any suspected dangerous behaviour to be corrected immediately. 5. Participants to be suspended from the activity if necessary. 6. Participants are only to fire from the designated firing line. 7. Those not shooting must remain seated in the waiting area outside the range vicinity and must not distract the shooters. • All participants are provided with protective glasses which must be worn at all times within the range. • The instructor to give clear and simple instructions on the rules of the range. • At all times participants are supervised by a qualified instructor. • Instructor checks that everyone has understood the rules before continuing. • Access to the range is controlled with signage erected on exterior when shooting range is in use, "Danger – Shooting in progress" / "No entry – shooting range in use". • Access to pellets is controlled by the instructor. • Instructor to make self-aware of operation of rifles used and note that the) rifles have a MANUAL SAFETY 	None Recorded	3	3	9
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7	Pellets	Instructors / Campsite Crew / Participants	Ricochets	Cuts / abrasions, other physical injuries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Safety glasses provided & All participants must wear glasses/goggles whilst shooting. Shooting range is constructed in a manner to minimise the likelihood of ricochet Condition of range to be inspected by range officer before use, if found to be in an inadequate state the range must not be used. 	None Recorded	2	2	4
8	Rifles	Instructors / Campsite Crew / Participants	Trapped hand/fingers in the breach when cocking and loading rifle	Cuts / abrasions, other physical injuries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Qualified instructors only to run rifles sessions (see below). Instructor or Leader must cock and load the rifles for any participants under 8yrs old and any who need special assistance. All participants to be appropriately briefed prior to start of the activity. Instructor to demonstrate where participants are to put their hands when they are loading the rifle. One hand to be kept on barrel while cocking rifle and loading pellet into breach. Instructor to supervise to make sure they are following the instructions. 	None Recorded	3	3	9
		Instructors / Campsite Crew / Participants	Equipment failure	Cuts / abrasions, other physical injuries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rifles will be checked before use. Any defects to be reported and taken out of service. Rifles and range to be inspected prior to start of activity. Personal shooting equipment belonging to participants is not to be used during scout activities. 	None Recorded	2	2	4
		Instructors / Campsite Crew	Rifle being stored loaded	Serious Physical Injury, penetration Injury	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The instructor is to check at the end of the sessions that the rifles barrel is clear and the rifles are not cocked before leaving the range and returning to rifle cabinet. Instructor to check rifles are clear and not cocked as getting rifles out of firearms cabinet. 	None Recorded	1	3	3
		Instructors / Campsite	Loading the Rifle (Danger of loading	Serious Physical Injury	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Instructor to give clear demonstration and instructions on the safe way in which to 	None Recorded	3	1	3

		Crew	whilst pointing at another person)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> load the rifle. Instructor to supervise whilst participants are loading their rifles. Participants told not to put their finger near the trigger when loading the rifle. Number of people at the firing points controlled by the instructor. 				
		Instructors / Campsite Crew	Over shoots and side shoots	Serious Physical Injury, penetration Injury	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participants given clear instruction on the direction of shooting. Range perimeter in sound condition. Condition of backstop, target holders and carpet covering on side pillars etc to be monitored and replaced when damaged and worn. Physical Stop behind targets to stop stray pellets. Range to be set up as described in operating procedures. 	None Recorded	1	3	3
		Instructors / Campsite Crew	Entrapment of fingers whilst cleaning rifles	Cuts / abrasions, other physical injuries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rifles to be cleaned after use by/under supervision of instructor. Instructor to demonstrate how to clean rifle. 	None Recorded	3	3	9
		Instructors / Campsite Crew / Participants	Accidental Discharge	Serious Physical Injury, penetration Injury	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clear instructions. Air rifles always point down range. Finger off trigger until ready. Reasonable and considered care of equipment by participants. 	None Recorded	3	3	9
		Instructors / Campsite Crew / Participants	Risk of injury whilst shooting	Serious Physical Injury, penetration Injury	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Air rifle shooting must only occur in the designated range onsite. Only the site-provided air rifle equipment may be used on the range. This range requires a minimum of an air rifle instructor and a responsible adult to supervise those waiting. The air rifle instructor(s) must have a current Range conducting officer qualification or equivalent. If the participant group needs a higher level of supervision than one instructor to two shooters, the instructor should reduce the 	None Recorded	3	3	9

					<p>Number of targets being used as part of their dynamic risk assessment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Each Range must only have 12 participants per group and a minimum age of 8 years and the air rifle instructor must ensure that each shooter has demonstrated the strength, physical ability and maturity to shoot safely. • The advice of the leader who knows the young person well should be sought. • Only the instructors, the supervising adult (1:1) and participants are allowed in the range. Any others must seek the permission of the instructor before entering. • The tables at the shooting line must be used and must not be moved. • All people shooting must wear eye protection and not be wearing hats or hoods. • All shooters and instructors should wash their hands thoroughly afterwards as the pellets contain lead. • Shooters should be instructed in safe Shooting techniques, especially keeping air rifles pointed down the range. • There should only be one shooter per target. • Participants deemed to be deliberately not following safety rules should be managed appropriately by the air rifle instructor to • Ensure their own and others safety. 				
9	Equipment Movement	Instructors / Camp Crew	Risk of injury when transporting, transferring and storing equipment	Cuts / abrasions, other physical injuries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The camp warden may only unlock and allow access to the range and the equipment cabinets for an activity, to an air rifle Instructor. • The equipment may only be taken from the cabinets by the air rifle instructor. • All air rifle equipment must be locked away in the cabinets after use, and the range must be locked. 	None Recorded	1	3	3
10	Targets	Instructors / Campsite Crew /	Removing and replacing Targets	Cuts / abrasions, other physical injuries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Target stands have minimal surface area to minimise rebounds. • The air rifle instructor is the only person 	None Recorded	1	2	2

		Participants			<p>who can instruct a shooter to collect/replace their paper target after they have declared the</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Range safe. • NO RUNNING ON THE RANGE • Groups instructed to walk down the side of the range. • Correct method of retrieving targets demonstrated and monitored throughout session. • Good group control by instructor. 				
11	Wildlife	Instructors / Campsite Crew / Participants	Animals straying onto range	Risk of injury to animals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No food permitted in the range. • Range checked before/during use. • Activity temporarily closed until wildlife has moved on. 	None Recorded	2	1	2

For Information Only

Emergency Procedure

1. There must be a first aider and first aid kit present amongst the Activity Users, when this activity is in progress, and there must be a functioning mobile phone carried by Instructor/ Group leader.
2. If a serious injury occurs that requires help from the emergency services, the following procedure is to be followed:
 - a) The activity is to cease.
 - b) Initial triage of the casualty is to be carried out.
 - c) 999 called with a full description of location of incident/injury given.

Address: Lees Wood Scout & Guide Activity Centre, Fir Tree Hill,
Chandler's Cross, Rickmansworth WD3 4LY

What3Words: **BOUNTY.HOLDS.LUNGS**

3. Participants are to be sent to an alternative site.
4. Camp Crew to be notified immediately.
5. Main gate to be manned to receive and give directions to emergency services.
6. Ensure that the equipment is not left unsupervised.
7. Warden to be informed.
8. Group to start InTouch procedures.

Additional arrangements required to reduce risk:									
No	Recommendations and actions required to reduce risk	Residual risk with additional controls			Deadline for action (Date)	Action to be completed by (name)	Monitoring arrangements Active and Reactive	Action Complete (date)	Comments / additional information
		S	L	R					

To add more rows to this section, place the cursor to the left of the line above until you see a + sign and 'click'

Management ownership - I confirm that this risk assessment is suitable and sufficient, and that I will ensure the implementation, monitoring and review of the arrangements as stated.

Managers Name	Graham Raven Head Warden Lees Wood	Manager's Signature	<i>G. RAVEN</i>	Date signed	31 Jan 2025	Next review due (based on risk level)	Feb 2026
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Reviewer Name	Role	Date of Review	Reason for Review	Signature	Next Review Date
		09 Feb 2025	Annual		Feb 2026

5 x 5 Risk Matrix								
Risk Rating Guidance	Likelihood (L)	5	5	10	15	20	25	Likelihood (L) x Severity (S) = Risk Rating (RR).
		4	4	8	12	16	20	
		3	3	6	9	12	15	
		2	2	4	6	8	10	
		1	1	2	3	4	5	
		Severity (S)		1	2	3	4	
Acceptability of Risk Guidance	High Risk: 15-25	High-risk activities should cease immediately. Further effective control measures to mitigate risks must be introduced.						
	Medium Risk: 8-12	Medium-risks are an acceptable level based on the reduced likelihood after sufficient control measures are implemented.						
	Low Risk: 1-6	Low-risks are largely acceptable. Where it is reasonable to do so, efforts should be made to reduce risks further.						
Guidance. When completing a risk assessment, you should:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identify the persons at risk and the significant hazards. 2. Calculate an initial RR for the activity. 3. Identify risk control measures that reduce the risks to an acceptable level. 4. Calculate a revised RR - you should consider how much safer the task will be if the control measures are followed. Here, you should consider changing both the likelihood (L) and the severity (S) ratings. 							
Note. Ideally, you should look to reduce the risks so that the task can be classified as "low-risk".								

Likelihood (L)	Definition	Points rating	Severity (S)	Definition	Points rating
Inevitable	If the work continues as it is, there is almost 100% certainty that an accident will happen, for examples: A broken stair or broken rung on a ladder, Bare, exposed electrical conductors, Unstable stacks of heavy boxes	5	Very high	Causing multiple deaths and widespread destruction e.g. fire, course/building collapse.	5
Highly likely	Will happen more often than not. Additional factors could precipitate an incident but it is still likely to happen without this additional factor.	4	High	Causing death, serious injury or permanent disability to an individual.	4
Possible	The accident may occur if additional factors precipitate it, but it is unlikely to happen without them.	3	Moderate	Temporary disability causing injury (to member of the public, contractor or employees) or disease capable of keeping an employee off work for seven days or more and reportable under RIDDOR (Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 1995).	3
Unlikely	This incident or illness might occur but the probability is low and the risk minimal.	2	Slight	Minor injury (to member of the public, contractor or employee), which would allow the individual to continue work after first aid treatment on site or at a local surgery. The duration of the stoppage or treatment is such that the normal flow of work is not seriously interrupted.	2
Remote possibility	There is really no risk present. Only under freak conditions could there be any possibility of an accident or illness. All reasonable precautions have been taken - This should be the normal state of the workplace.	1	Nil	Very minor injury, bruise, graze, no risk of disease.	1

The Review Process. This risk assessment will be reviewed when it is suspected that the assessment is no longer valid or there has been a significant change. In addition, it will be reviewed annually.

Air Rifle Shooting Range Layout

