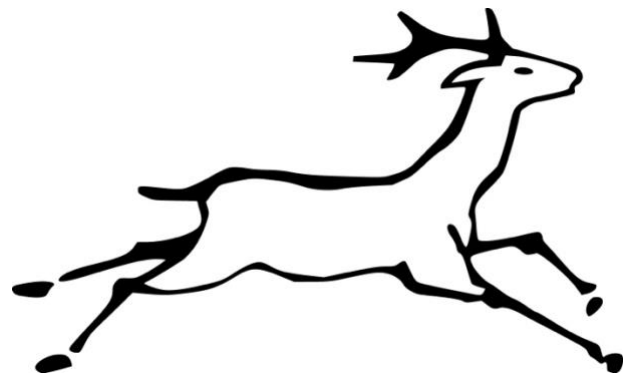




Fire Policy Running Deer School

Reviewed: 14/10/2025 | Next date for review: 14/10/2026

Site details: Butterdon Wood, Moretonhampstead, Devon TQ13 8PY	
Butterdon Wood Grid Reference	SX753885
Butterdon Wood What 3 Words	https://w3w.co/turned.vibe.hindered
Nearest Town	Moretonhampstead (no hospital)
Nearest Hospital	Exeter RD&E 01392 411611 or 999 https://w3w.co/groom.gifts.fallen
Nearest Hospital – minor injuries	Newton Abbot Community Hospital https://w3w.co/tune.tuck.onions
Fire Service	999

Introduction

Open fires and the use of storm kettles are an important part of the bushcraft and woodland management sessions.

Running Deer aims to ensure that all people participating in sessions with fires and/or storm kettles will do so safely and with as little risk to their health as possible.

Fires will only be used where it is appropriate to do so. Through them, we will endeavor to ensure that:

- Staff will explain to participants the importance of using only dead wood for fires and also of the importance of dead wood as a habitat.
- Smoke inhalation will be reduced by burning dead wood. Those in smoky areas will be encouraged to move to less smoky areas.

- Participants will only be allowed to light fires under direct supervision of a trained member of staff using suitable materials and equipment.
- All participants will be given clear guidelines about how to behave and move around the area when the fire or kettle is lit.
- A lit fire will be supervised by an adult at all times, as will all cooking activities.
- Related safety equipment, including heat-proof gloves, a fire blanket, a burns kit and water will be kept within close range of fires, where appropriate.
- Weather conditions—particularly during extended droughts, dry spells, and periods of high wind—should be carefully considered when determining whether to permit fires.
- All fires should be fully extinguished and made safe at the end of each session.

Wood-Burning Oven Use Policy

Use of the wood-burning oven is subject to a dedicated risk assessment and established safety procedures.

A single **nominated person** is responsible for lighting, maintaining, and extinguishing the fire throughout the cooking activity (which continues until the fire is fully out).

Unless specifically requested by the nominated person, **no other staff or students** should interfere with or attempt to manage the fire.

This rule helps prevent overheating, damage to the oven, and the risk of fire spreading to the surrounding environment.

By default, the **person running the cooking activity** will act as the nominated fire manager unless another individual has been formally designated. Everyone on site should be made aware of who this nominated person is, and their name should be clearly communicated via the “**Onsite**” Teams chat.

In the event of a fire

Staff: Assess the wind direction and safely take group to designated assembly point and reassess the situation, if the designated assembly point is unsafe, decisions to be made on alternative.

Procedure

The Air horn will be sounded 3 times. Location of Air horn: **OFFICE/RECEPTION POD**

<https://w3w.co/master.irony.downfield>

Dial 999 and ask for the Fire Service.

Staff and clients to make your way calmly to the designated assembly points which are located at:

- Front Gate where the Fire Assembly sign is located.
<https://w3w.co/cure.collision.swimsuits>
- For those at far end of woodland: Stile leading to footpath: Assembly point at Butterdon Cottage. Go over stile and turn left, follow footpath down to the road.
<https://w3w.co/ketchup.regular.confetti>
- The Head of School or designated member of staff will call out the register. DO NOT re- enter woodland until it has been made safe.

Fire Drill

Staff will be informed at the beginning of the day if there is a planned fire drill.

Contact Running Deer

Running Deer School: Butterdon Wood, Moretonhampstead, TQ13 8PY

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