

Mending Lines

Alternative Provision Site Risk Assessment

Witham Grange Glamping – Fishing & Classroom Provision

Provider: Mending Lines

Site Location: Witham Grange Glamping

Assessment Type: Alternative Provision Site Risk Assessment

Assessment completed by: Chris Parker

Assessment completed: 14th April 2026 (first day back following the Easter holidays)

Review frequency: Termly or sooner if required following incidents, changes to learners, staffing, activities, site conditions or safeguarding concerns.

Overview of Provision

Mending Lines delivers fishing-based Alternative Provision for children and young people who may experience barriers to education including SEMH needs, anxiety, SEND, trauma, low attendance, social difficulties or disengagement from mainstream settings.

Provision is delivered using a combination of:

- fishing and outdoor activities
- wellbeing and confidence-building activities
- practical and social skills development
- structured discussion and reflection work
- classroom-based activities where appropriate

Sessions are delivered within the grounds of Witham Grange Glamping, including lakeside fishing areas and indoor classroom/welfare space.

Group sizes are kept small to support safe supervision, relationship building and individual support.

Staffing & Supervision

- Sessions are delivered by experienced staff and/or Angling Trust qualified coaches.
- At times, sessions may be delivered by one member of staff either bankside or within the classroom environment.

- Mending Lines has a Lone Working Policy in place.
- Lone working arrangements are risk assessed and reviewed regularly.
- Learner suitability is considered before single staff sessions take place.
- Staff carry a mobile phone and have access to emergency contact details at all times.
- Dynamic risk assessments are completed throughout sessions.

Risk Assessment

Hazard / Risk	Who may be harmed	Existing controls	Risk level
Water / lake edge / risk of falling into water	Learners, staff	Learners are supervised at all times near water. Site boundaries and expectations are explained at the start of sessions. Running near the water is not permitted. Safe fishing pegs and areas are selected. Staff maintain visibility of learners throughout sessions.	Medium
Slips, trips and uneven ground	Learners, staff	Staff complete visual checks of the site before activities begin. Learners are reminded to walk carefully around lakeside areas, mud, grass and uneven ground. Equipment is stored safely to reduce trip hazards. Suitable footwear is encouraged.	Medium
Fishing hooks and sharp equipment	Learners, staff	Hooks, rigs and fishing equipment are handled under supervision. Learners receive guidance on safe casting, unhooking and handling equipment. Staff provide support where required. First aid equipment is available onsite.	Medium

Hazard / Risk	Who may be harmed	Existing controls	Risk level
Casting injuries	Learners, staff, visitors	Safe casting areas are used and learners are taught to check surroundings before casting. Peg spacing is managed appropriately. Staff supervise all fishing activities.	Medium
Behavioural incidents / emotional dysregulation	Learners, staff	Learner information and known risks are reviewed before placement. Staff use calm, consistent and trauma-informed approaches. Activities may be adapted or paused where needed. Incident recording procedures are followed.	Medium
Learner absconding or leaving agreed area	Learners	Site boundaries are explained clearly. Staff maintain supervision and monitor presentation throughout sessions. Individual learner risks are considered before sessions. Parents/carers and placing authorities are contacted where required.	Medium/High depending on learner
Lone working / single staff delivery	Staff, learners	At times, sessions may be delivered by one member of staff either bankside or within the classroom environment. Lone working arrangements follow the Mending Lines Lone Working Policy. Staff maintain communication access and carry a mobile phone. Learner suitability is considered before lone working sessions take place. Activities are adapted where required to maintain safe supervision.	Medium
Adverse weather conditions	Learners, staff	Weather conditions are monitored before and during sessions. Learners are advised to bring suitable clothing, coats and fluids. Sessions may move	Medium

Hazard / Risk	Who may be harmed	Existing controls	Risk level
		indoors, be adapted or cancelled where conditions become unsafe.	
Sunburn / dehydration / heat exposure	Learners, staff	Learners are encouraged to bring drinks and suitable clothing. Breaks are offered regularly. Shade and indoor areas are used where possible. Staff monitor learner wellbeing throughout sessions.	Medium
Cold exposure / wet conditions	Learners, staff	Learners are advised to bring warm clothing and waterproofs. Staff monitor comfort and wellbeing during colder weather. Sessions may be shortened or adapted if conditions deteriorate.	Medium
Handling fish / hygiene risks	Learners, staff	Learners are taught safe and respectful fish handling. Hand sanitiser and hygiene facilities are available. Cuts are covered where possible. Learners are encouraged to wash or sanitise hands after sessions.	Low/Medium
Medical conditions / medication	Learners	Medical and emergency contact information is obtained before attendance. Learners self-administer medication unless otherwise agreed. Emergency procedures are in place and first aid equipment is available.	Medium
Allergic reactions / insect bites / environmental exposure	Learners, staff	Known allergies are identified before sessions. Learners are supervised around bait and outdoor environments. First aid equipment is available and parents/carers contacted if required.	Low/Medium
Contact with members of the	Learners	Learners remain supervised at all times. Staff monitor interactions with other site users and intervene where	Medium

Hazard / Risk	Who may be harmed	Existing controls	Risk level
public / other anglers		necessary. Learners are not left unsupervised with members of the public.	
Use of classroom / indoor space	Learners, staff	Indoor areas are kept clean and organised. Furniture and equipment are checked visually before use. Staff supervise all classroom-based activities.	Low/Medium
Fire risk within indoor areas	Learners, staff	Fire exits and evacuation procedures are known to staff. Indoor spaces are kept clear of unnecessary hazards. Emergency services can be contacted if required.	Low
Manual handling / carrying equipment	Learners, staff	Heavy equipment is carried by staff where appropriate. Learners only handle suitable items. Equipment is transported and stored safely.	Low
Transport / arrival and collection arrangements	Learners	Mending Lines does not routinely provide transport unless separately agreed. Arrival and collection arrangements are confirmed in advance. Learners are signed in and out where appropriate.	Low/Medium

Additional Control Measures

- Small group provision supports safe supervision and relationship building.
- Dynamic risk assessments are completed throughout sessions.
- Activities are adapted based on learner needs, behaviour and environmental conditions.
- Lone working is only used where appropriate for the learner group and activity.
- Higher-risk learners or activities may require additional staffing.

- Staff can end or adapt sessions where safety concerns arise.
 - Safeguarding concerns are managed in line with Mending Lines safeguarding procedures.
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Emergency Procedures

In the event of an emergency:

1. Staff will make the area safe.
 2. Other learners will be supervised and moved where necessary.
 3. Emergency services will be contacted if required.
 4. First aid will be administered where appropriate.
 5. Parents/carers and placing authorities will be informed.
 6. Incidents will be recorded and reviewed.
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First Aid

- First aid equipment is available during sessions.
 - Staff hold or work towards appropriate first aid awareness/training.
 - All accidents, incidents and near misses are recorded in line with organisational procedures.
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Review Arrangements

This risk assessment is reviewed:

- termly
 - following an accident, incident or near miss
 - where learner needs or risks significantly change
 - where activities or staffing arrangements change
 - where environmental or weather conditions require review
 - following safeguarding concerns or emergency situations
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Overall Risk Rating: Medium

Assessment Outcome:

Activities may continue with the above control measures in place.