



## **Risk Assessment for Anglo-Saxon and Viking Medicine Workshop, DIG**

**1. Hazard:** Viking equipment, including weapons

**People / Items at risk:** Staff / teachers / pupils

**Comments:** Hazards arising from incorrect handling or positioning of display items

**Existing control measures:** All workshop leaders familiarised with 'weapons etiquette' document, which contains the following advice relating to workshops:

- Weapons that are not in use by the workshop provider should be kept out of reach of children.
- Spears should not be propped up against walls: there is a risk that they will topple and cause injury. They should be laid flat on the floor against a wall to minimise tripping risk.
- Use discretion in allowing children to handle weapons / examine them at close range.
- Use the cloths provided to clean the blades of any fingerprints after the session and before tidying away.

All equipment under supervision of experienced staff at all times. All bladed weapons checked for damage / sharp edges prior to each session.

**Risk rating:** C3

**Control measures required:** All new staff to be made aware of existing control measures.

**Monitoring:** Safety to be assessed routinely by staff throughout the session.

**Review:** Prior to each new session. Additional controls to be applied accordingly, where necessary.

**2. Hazard:** Plant materials (lavender, sage, rosemary, mint, fennel, comfrey, wild garlic) used for demonstrations: availability of these varies according to season. Also plant materials in jars (lavender, ash leaves etc.)

**People / Items at risk:** Staff / visitors

**Comments:** Hazards arising from skin irritation caused by plants / ingestion of plants

**Existing control measures:** Workshop takes place under supervision of experienced staff at all times.

**Risk rating:** C2

**Control measures required:** All plants generally safe and non-toxic (though comfrey can be an irritant and should not be picked). Although children should be encouraged to smell the freshly picked plants, they should not handle them directly (i.e. plants should be passed around on a wooden dish) Where handling has taken place, children should be instructed to wash their hands afterwards. All new staff to be made aware of existing control measures.

**Monitoring:** Safety to be assessed routinely by staff throughout the day.

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**Review:** Prior to each new period of activities. Additional controls to be applied accordingly, where necessary.