



Health & Safety Memo

To: All NCC members

Date of issue: 11th October 2006

Number: 06 01

Subject: Archery at Whitlingham Outdoor Education Center

Some members had voiced their concerns to me about the safety provisions for the Archery at the Whitlingham Outdoor Education Center. I forwarded these concerns to Mike Roper who is the Programme Manager for the center and you will find his response below.

However I would like to remind you all to remain extra vigilant when in the area where the archery is held.

[Dean] thank you for the email. I am pleased you have raised your concerns to myself, I feel it is good to share any concerns and information so that we can address issues and everyone can feel safe at the country park.

Firstly if I can explain the history and set up and then secondly about the developments in the future.

Set up:

We gained permission from the Trust last winter to use the land for an archery range and I called in 2 independent local archery advisors. The range and targets were sited in it's present situation as advised. The national governing body for archery is the Grand National Archery Society (GNAS). The range meets all GNAS regulations and instructors using the range are qualified GNAS Leaders.

The range has been used throughout the summer as a short taster range and is designed to be used by beginners using low powered bows. The targets were purpose built and sited for us by a specialist company so that you are shooting downwards, leaving a sufficient overshoot area inline with regulations. To my knowledge no arrows have left the working area or have landed close to the boundaries.



I programme the archery range use where there are no other users around the vicinity. We do this currently by managing the use of the little broad for our groups and user groups like yourselves. Having up to date user group programmes and authorised use only is obviously part of this important safety planning.

Future developments:

We review each activity on a regular basis and through the winter, we will be making a variety of improvements as part of our ongoing development. For the archery range we will be constructing a three sided net around the targets and improving the rope barriers marking the area during use.

I hope this answers your concerns and please feel free to contact me if you wish to discuss this further or to share any other information. Two way communication is essential to the development of the country park and to the benefit of all users.

Mike Roper
Programme Manager
Whitlingham Outdoor Education Centre

Dean Grady
Health and Safety Officer
Norwich Canoe Club