



This unit builds on your Bushcraft skills. You'll learn how to safely use tools like knives for whittling, understand UK laws, and explore how to start a small, safe fire to boil water in the wild.

UK Knife Law – Know the Rules!

It's important to understand the law when using knives:

- It is illegal to carry a knife in public without a good reason.
- In Bushcraft or school activities, knives are only used under adult supervision.
- You must never carry a knife outside of the activity or school grounds.
- Only use folding pocket knives with blades under 3 inches (7.62 cm) – and only if permitted by your instructor.

◆ Remember: Respect the tool, use it responsibly, and follow the rules at all times.

Types of Wood for Whittling (UK Trees)

Whittling works best with soft, non-toxic woods. Ideal types include:

- Hazel – Smooth and easy to carve.
- Willow – Very soft, great for beginners.
- Lime (Linden) – Soft with little grain.
- Silver Birch – Light, clean wood that whittles well.

Avoid hard woods like oak or beech for basic carving – they're tough on your hands and tools.

How to Safely Whittle a Stick

Safety Rules:

- Always sit down while whittling.
- Use a carving glove or thumb guard.
- Cut away from your body, never toward.
- Keep fingers behind the blade.
- Take small, controlled shavings.
- Stop if you're tired – accidents happen when you're not focused.

Tools Needed:

- Sharp carving or whittling knife (used under supervision).
- Greenwood stick (not dry or brittle).

How to Start a Small, Safe Bushcraft Fire (for Boiling Water)

Purpose: Heat water for drinking, cooking, or cleaning.

Steps:

1. **Clear the Area:** Choose flat, open space. Remove leaves and grass.
2. **Build a Fire Circle:** Use stones or dig a small pit.
3. **Gather Materials:**
 - a. **Tinder:** Dry grass, birch bark, cotton wool.
 - b. **Kindling:** Thin sticks.
 - c. **Fuel:** Thicker sticks or logs.
4. **Build a Teepee or Log Cabin Fire Structure.**
5. **Light the Fire:** Use matches or a fire steel.
6. **Boil Water:** Place metal pot or billy can over flames.

Safety Tips:

- Always have water nearby to put it out.
- Never leave the fire unattended.
- Fully extinguish with water and stir ashes when done.

Bushcraft Top Tips