

Bush Craft Activities

Making the charcoal

Tutor Penny Evans first gave each of the participants a pair of secateurs and asked them to take cuttings from a few different trees. The learners then took their cuttings to the site where Penny had made a fire, and stripped down the wood before baking the cuttings in a tin over the flames to make charcoal. They found that wood from willow makes the best charcoal. Learner Nik Sutherland said 'it was great to have the funding to get the opportunity to do this. I take my eight-year-old son camping and do a lot of outdoor activities with him, and this course has given me another skill that I can pass on to him, and that we can enjoy doing together.' Among the other participants on this taster was famous local sculptor Peter Randall-Page.



Three participants on the Greenwood Carving session practise their skills.

Carving in a Teepee

Learner Lara Pharoah attended both courses 'to get out and do something completely different from work – and from everyday life. Also for social reasons – to be with likeminded people in a beautiful environment. I loved that we went out and harvested our own materials. The courses were enjoyable, comprehensive and inspiring. For the majority of the carving course we worked in a teepee, which was great. At the end of the session, we all really wanted to go home and continue carving. I'm really interested in carrying on with carving as a hobby, and am even thinking about trying to make money from it.'



Two learners use simple knives to whittle down sticks for making charcoal.