

Risk assessment for the ropes course area 1,2 and 3 at High Ashurst

Human Hazards

Hazard type	Who may be harmed	Is the risk adequately controlled
All hazards	All Participants and Staff	Appropriately trained Surrey Outdoor Learning and Development (SOLD) staff to facilitate ensuring safe supervision of participants. All participants to be briefed clearly throughout session. First aid kit carried. Cowstails for quick accessing carried. Staff must follow operational procedures of activity sessions. All equipment checked and maintained according to manufacturer's guidelines. See 'general' risk assessment for SOLD centre.
Falling off an element	All Participants and Staff	All participants will be tied in by a SOLD trained staff.
Participant being lowered on to another participant on ground	All Participants and Staff	Safety talk given at the beginning of the session. Ensure boundaries and sitting positions are adhered to.
Falling items from above	All Participants and Staff	Helmets to be worn by all people in activity area.
Injury from lowering off	All Participants and Staff	Instructors trained to lower off slowly and to ensure that participants are safely lowered past ropes and ladders.
Fall from elements	All Participants	Participants trained in the use of equipment and overseen by a qualified SOLD Instructor. Instructor only to lower the participant down. Use of gri gri belay device during group belaying. Good group control and explain potential danger of gri gri and SOLD staff to back up when necessary, for example, Knot in rope.
Tripping over anchor points	All Participants and Staff	Participants briefed on the location of anchor points. Anchor points either sit low on the ground or are clearly marked. No running allowed.

Hazard type	Who may be harmed	Is the risk adequately controlled
Injury from falling equipment / personal possessions	All Participants and staff	Anybody entering the activity area must wear a helmet. Participants are briefed prior to the session to remove items from their pockets.
Participant swinging and colliding with other participant / element	All Participants and staff	Only SOLD staff allowed to lower participants. Helmets worn whilst in the ropes course area.

Equipment Hazards

Hazard type	Who may be harmed	Is the risk adequately controlled
Failure to put the safety equipment on correctly	All Participants and staff	All staff will be given staff training to spot incorrect wearing of safety equipment, all harnesses will be checked before they are put away each session.
Falling ladder or injury whilst carrying	All Participants and staff	SOLD Instructor to supervise use of ladders. Where possible two people to carry ladder.
Falling ladder or injury whilst carrying	All Participants	Participants to be taught correct operational techniques. Supervised by instructor.