

Risk assessment for the ropes course area 4 (cowstails and zipwire) 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 onto the ground	All participants and staff	Appropriate training is given to participants. Working in a buddying system and clipping in checked each time.
Falling off platform	All participants and staff	Appropriate training is given to participants. Working in a buddying system and clipping in checked each time.
Falling below an element	All participants and staff	All participants will have their cows tails set to the correct height for their size so they may self-rescue.
Falling onto an element	All participants and staff	The safety sling has been shortened to stop the individuals head from falling below the element so reducing the risk of an injury.
Not being able to self-rescue on the elements	All participants and staff	The instructor is trained to rescue and has the appropriate equipment with them.
Falling items from above	All participants and staff	Helmets to be worn by all people in activity area.
Injury from falling equipment / personal possessions	All participants and staff	Anybody entering the climbing area must wear a helmet. Participants are briefed prior to the session to remove items from their pockets.

Hazard type	Who may be harmed	Is the risk adequately controlled
Participant unable to release gri gri or knot when abseiling down from zip wire	All participants	Instructor at bottom of zip wire. Instructor trained to assist with ladder if required. Instructor to carry knife
Participant to release gri gri too quickly giving a quick descent.	All participants	Instructor at bottom of zip wire and will hold the tail end to control the speed.
Bangs to the head	All participants and staff	Helmets to be worn at all times.

Environment Hazards

Hazard type	Who may be harmed	Is the risk adequately controlled
Inverting in the harness	All participants and staff	Chest and seat harnesses to be worn when on the elements.

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 after each session.
The car becoming stuck in the middle of the zip wire	All participants and staff	The instructor will lower down the zip line and assist the participant.
Rope related accidents	All participants	Participants to be taught correct operational techniques. Supervised by instructor.
Falling ladder or injury whilst carrying	All participants and staff	SOLD Instructor to supervise use of ladders. Where possible two people to carry ladder.