

## Risk assessment

Name of activity, event, and location	High Zip Wire (Permanent High Ropes Course) (Qualified instructor Led) Willesley Scout Campsite. (Covid 19 restrictions included))	Date of risk assessment	25 <sup>th</sup> March 2021	Name of person doing this risk assessment	Peter Bailey
		Date of next review	25 <sup>th</sup> March 2022		

What hazard have you identified? What are the risks from it?	Who is at risk?	How the risks are already controlled? What extra controls are needed?	What has changed that needs to be thought about and controlled?
<b>Unauthorised use</b>	Unauthorised trespassers and members.	Tower is locked and runner is locked to steel ring at top. Trap door to top level is locked shut.	
<b>Vandalism</b>	Participants	Wire rope and anchors are checked at the start of each opening session by instructor.	
<b>Slips, trips and falls</b>	Participants	Soft woodland floor; Safety briefing by instructor including no use of equipment without instructor; Good Group control by leaders; Platforms to be cleared of tree debris before use.	
<b>Falls from height</b>	Participants	Ladders within tower are all secured at top and bottom and are reasonably short. There are 3 ladders up to the top level with intermediate landings that are fully contained. At top participants are clipped to belay as they come off the top of the ladder and not released until clipped to rope wire.	
<b>Items falling from height</b>	Bystanders & participants	Regular dead wood removal and inspection of adjacent trees. Participants asked to remove loose items from their pockets. Instructor proficient in management of equipment at top of tower and tower has netting up to handrail level to help this.	
<b>Becoming trapped at height or entangled</b>	Participants	Long hair to be tied back and tucked in; neckers to be taken off. Riders instructed to hold cows tails and not touch wire rope when in motion Instructor checks wire rope at start of session.	
<b>Adverse weather conditions</b>	Participants, instructors and spectators	Equipment not to be used during or 20 minutes after an electrical storm or there is an imminent threat of such conditions. Extra care in wet weather on platforms and other equipment becoming slippery. Instructors to dress suitably for weather conditions – including sun protection.	

You can find more information in the Safety checklist for leaders and at [scouts.org.uk/safety](https://scouts.org.uk/safety)

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<b>Human error, inappropriate use of equipment</b>	Participants	All instructors trained in the proper fitting and use of PPE, including belay devices. Only suitably trained instructors can fit harnesses. Peer monitoring. Compliance with local training & permit protocols. Gate at top of run not opened until dismount team signals OK	
<b>Ladders</b>	Instructors and participants	All instructors trained in the safe use of ladders All ladders are suitable for required use Ladders are secured top and bottom	
<b>Swinging into trees</b>	Participants	Trees cut back and monitored around zip wire regularly when in use.	
<b>Contact between riders and spectators.</b>	Participants & spectators	Landing zone fenced off. Demountable rope barrier and warning signs where riders legs will be less than 2.25m above ground level. Instructor will have full view of course from launch platform	
<b>Faulty equipment</b>	Instructors & participants	All PPE equipment checked monthly and retired at age as specified by manufacturer. Tower and zip wire anchor structures inspected monthly by qualified instructor and annually by external building engineer body.	
<b>Inversions compromising security of sit harness</b>	Participants	Tell riders not to invert, but chest harness available if deemed necessary by instructor or needed for confidence or physiology of rider.	
<b>Descents</b>	Participants	Gate at top of run not opened until dismount team signals OK Instructor checks descent path is clear before releasing rider	
<b>Injury from wire splinters</b>	Participants	Riders instructed to hold cows tails and not touch wire rope when in motion Instructor checks wire rope at start of session and thoroughly each month.	
<b>Contact with wire rope and/or braking system</b>	Participants	Riders instructed to hold cows tails and not touch wire rope when in motion Riders to wear climbing helmets. Riders to be instructed to keep arms and legs together whilst braking.	
<b>Pre-existing medical conditions or language barriers</b>	Instructor and participants	Notified to campsite before session so that high level supervision by the group's leaders or a translator needs to be provided by the group booking it before the session commences.	
<b>Staff Suitability</b>	Participants	Compliance with local training and permit protocols. Small group of new and existing instructors assessed every 5 years by an MIC or MIA and after that SPA holding scout assessors can assess other leaders to become Instructors. If an instructor has not run the tower for a period of 6 months or longer then a reassessment will be required.	

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		Compliance with Scout Association rules Compliance with GirlguidingUK rules	
<b>Unruly participants.</b>	Instructors and Participants	Full co-operation from group leaders for control and discipline. Session suspended by instructor if participants are acting in a dangerous or irresponsible manner	
<b>Covid-19</b>	Instructors & participants	This activity may be carried out if social distancing can be maintained with closer contact only to check critical tasks. Leader and participants should wear a face covering in accordance national guidance.	

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