

# Scouting Risk Assessment – Mobile High Ropes



Date of risk assessment	1/2/24	Name/Role of who undertook this risk assessment	Ben Shirvill
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Earleywood Scout Campsite

Hazard Identified? / Risks from it?	Who is at risk?	How are the risks already controlled? What extra controls are needed?	What has changed that needs to be thought about and controlled?
<p><b>Hazard</b> – something that may cause harm or damage. <b>Risk</b> – the chance of it happening.</p>	<p>Young people, Leaders, Visitors.</p>	<p><b>Controls</b> – Ways of making the activity safer by removing or reducing the risk from it. For example - you might use a different piece of equipment or you might change the way the activity is carried out.</p>	<p>Keep <b>checking</b> throughout the activity in case you need to change it...or even <b>stop</b> it! This is a great place to add comments which will be used as part of the review.</p>
<p><b>Instructors</b></p>	<p>Instructors</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Activity instructors leading and running the activity to hold a current Scout permit issued by Berkshire Scouts.</li> <li>The maximum ratio will be 2 activity instructors: 6 participants. – Plus, another adult required to clip in and out of system.</li> <li>Activity instructors may be assisted by other adults to maintain maximum capacity. One activity instructor must be on the start platform the other on the finish platform.</li> <li>Helmets to be used by all participants and spectators within the activity compound, including the activity instructor.</li> <li>Activity instructor to run activity using conventional rope techniques as covered in the RCI / CWA awards.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Lifting parts of the course during build</b></p>	<p>Employee/ Staff trained in set-up procedure</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No one single part of the course heavier than the safe lifting weight of 25kg.</li> <li>Activity instructors trained in safe lifting practices and manufacturers procedures</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Working at height during setup</b></p>	<p>Employee/ Staff trained in set-up procedure</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Activity instructors trained in safe climbing practices and manufacturers procedures.</li> <li>Use of ropes and platforms to build course. Activity instructors are always clipped to the course so even in the event of fall they only drop 3 metres.</li> <li>Safe working at height practices used in conjunction to current HSE legislation.</li> <li>Helmets worn.</li> </ul>	

Additional information can be found in the [Safety Checklist for Leaders](#) and other information at [scouts.org.uk/safety](https://scouts.org.uk/safety)

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<b>Failure of Structure</b>	Instructor, Leaders and Participants Spectators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Structure inspection by external assessors</li> <li>• Monthly inspection of structure.</li> <li>• Before/During use inspection done by activity instructor.</li> </ul>	
<b>Failure of Equipment</b> Equipment/Harnesses/Ropes	Instructor, Leaders and Participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An annual inspection by qualified inspectors.</li> <li>• A 3-monthly inspection by qualified/trained staff.</li> <li>• Before and during use, inspection done by activity instructor.</li> <li>• Earlywood's equipment, harnesses, ropes, helmets will be checked by a competent person on a regular basis as advised by the manufacturer.</li> <li>• Records of checks will be retained.</li> <li>• Harnesses which are frayed, have split webbing, split stitching or any other damage will be taken out of use immediately.</li> <li>• Frayed/damaged ropes will be taken out of use immediately.</li> <li>• Helmets showing signs of damage will be taken out of use immediately.</li> </ul>	
<b>Falls</b>	Everyone involved in the session	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure all long hair is tied up/back as appropriate.</li> <li>• Non-loose clothing/neckers to be worn,</li> <li>• Remove jewellery which impede the activity and necklaces tucked inside.</li> <li>• Harness fitted securely with no lose straps.</li> <li>• Participants leave the ground attached to safety devices/Auto belays/Top rope systems.</li> <li>• Participants (younger children) fiddling with the screw gate on the Carabiner meaning the safety device is not safe. All Carabiner's have self-locking gates.</li> </ul>	
<b>Overcrowding and disorderly behaviour</b>	Everyone involved in the session.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Non-participants to observe from outside compound.</li> <li>• If any participant does not follow the instructions from the activity instructor, they are to be removed from the compound.</li> </ul>	
<b>Emergency Rescue</b>	Instructors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Course has an Emergency Take Down Kit</li> <li>• All activity instructors trained in the use and manufacturers procedure for an Emergency Take down of a participant.</li> <li>• Clear signage showing the allowable user minimum heights accompanied and unaccompanied.</li> <li>• Signage also dictates the maximum /height weight of a user and route around course.</li> </ul>	

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<b>Medical Incident/Injury</b>	Everyone involved in the session	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Leader in charge to have readily available an adult with current mandatory module 10 first aid training.</li> <li>• Leader in charge to have first aid kit.</li> <li>• Leader in charge/activity instructor to be aware of where nearest first aid kit is located (Scout Centre kitchen and Rowney Building kitchen).</li> <li>• Leader in charge to have available and be aware of all medical/allergy conditions and reasonable adjustments of everyone at risk.</li> <li>• Participants with reasonable adjustments to be located nearest the activity instructor and if necessary, have a competent person supporting them.</li> <li>• Leader in charge to be aware of Earleywood incident action plan and follow it.</li> <li>• Leader in charge establish procedures in the event of an injury at beginning of session.</li> <li>• Leader in charge to maintain young person/adult ratio</li> </ul>	
<b>Slips, Trips, Cuts, Bites &amp; Falls</b>	Everyone involved in the session	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Leader in charge to survey the activity area before starting to prevent participants having an incident:                         <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Mark locations of obstacles in the ground</li> <li>○ Remove loose debris to a safe location</li> <li>○ Mark locations of insect infestations and nests</li> <li>○ Mark locations of low lying stinging or scratchy plants</li> <li>○ Identify boundaries.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Wear appropriate footwear and shoelaces to be tied.</li> <li>• Walk, no running</li> <li>• Ensure the activity area is suitable for use, kept clear and tidy</li> </ul>	
<b>Overcrowding and disorderly behaviour</b>	Everyone involved in the session.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Leader in charge/activity instructor rules/instructions explained to participants during briefing.</li> <li>• Leader in charge to remain with the group.</li> <li>• Activity instructor to stop activity immediately if:                         <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ There are too many participants using the activity</li> <li>○ The participants behaviour is unacceptable or unruly</li> <li>○ No leader is present from the participants group</li> <li>○ Consider safety of participants is at risk</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Leader in charge to resolve the issue to the satisfaction of the activity instructor before the activity starts again.</li> </ul>	
<b>Animal Encounter – Wild/Domestic</b>	Everyone involved in the session.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Do not approach animal.</li> <li>• Do not encourage animal to approach you.</li> <li>• Maintain safe distance between you and the animal.</li> <li>• Leader in charge to scare away the animal without causing physical harm.</li> </ul>	
<b>Animal Faeces</b>	Everyone involved in the session.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Leader in charge to survey the activity area before starting, remove and dispose of animal faeces.</li> <li>• Any animal faeces identified while participating in the activity, pause activity and Leader in charge to remove and dispose of animal faeces.</li> </ul>	
<b>Weather Conditions &amp; Environment</b>	Everyone involved in the session.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bring clothing and equipment appropriate to the weather conditions.</li> <li>• In event of inclement weather, the activity instructor may cancel or postpone the activity, in the meanwhile Leader in charge to find a point of safety.</li> <li>• In hot weather ensure adequate hydration and self-administration of sun protection.</li> <li>• Use torches if dark.</li> <li>• Wear close toed footwear (i.e. no sandals/ flip flops, etc)</li> <li>• Turn on activity flood lighting as appropriate</li> </ul>	
<b>Missing Persons</b> Lost individual in distress	Everyone involved in the session.	<p>Leader in charge to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Take regular HEAD COUNTS</li> <li>• Take register before activity starts.</li> <li>• Have In-Touch arrangements accessible.</li> <li>• Check mobile phone connectivity is available.</li> </ul>	
<b>Unauthorised Access</b> Activity area left unattended Equipment unattended Theft Injury	Everyone involved in the session.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Equipment to be locked away securely whilst not in use.</li> <li>• Participants must never be left alone with equipment.</li> </ul>	

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<b>Checked by</b>		Name: Ben Shirvill Role: Activity Director Date 1st February 2024	
<b>Approved by</b>		Name: Derek Salter Role: Health & Safety Director Date 1st February 2024	
<b>Version Control</b>	Original Date 22 <sup>nd</sup> April 2023	<b>Whats changed?</b>	First issue
	Revision Date 1st February 2024		Annual review
	Revision .....		
	Date .....		

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