

Scouting Risk Assessment – Mobile High Ropes



Date of risk assessment	6/3/26	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>Hazard – something that may cause harm or damage. Risk – the chance of it happening.</p>	<p>Young people, Leaders, Visitors.</p>	<p>Controls – 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 checking throughout the activity in case you need to change it...or even stop it! This is a great place to add comments which will be used as part of the review.</p>
<p>Instructors</p>	<p>Instructors</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Activity instructors leading and running the activity to hold a current Scout permit issued by Berkshire Scouts. • The maximum ratio will be 2 activity instructors: 6 participants. – Plus, another adult required to clip in and out of system. • 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. • Helmets to be used by all participants and spectators within the activity compound, including the activity instructor. • Activity instructor to run activity using conventional rope techniques as covered in the RCI / CWA awards. 	
<p>Lifting parts of the course during build</p>	<p>Employee/ Staff trained in set-up procedure</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No one single part of the course heavier than the safe lifting weight of 25kg. • Activity instructors trained in safe lifting practices and manufacturers procedures 	
<p>Working at height during setup</p>	<p>Employee/ Staff trained in set-up procedure</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Activity instructors trained in safe climbing practices and manufacturers procedures. • 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. • Safe working at height practices used in conjunction to current HSE legislation. • Helmets worn. 	

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

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

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

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

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Checked by		Name: Ben Shirvill Role: Activity Director Date 22 nd April 2023	
Approved by		Name: Derek Salter Role: Health & Safety Director Date 22 nd April 2023	
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