

Blair Atholl Risk Assessment 2024

Name of activity, event, and location	High Ropes at Blair Atholl 2026	Date of risk assessment	9/6/26	Name of person doing this risk assessment	David Sneddon
		Date of next review	9/6/27		

What could go wrong? What hazard have you identified? What are the risks from it?	Who is at risk?	What are you going to do about it? How are the risks already controlled? What extra controls are needed? How will they be communicated to young people and adults and remain inclusive to all needs?	Review & revise What has changed that needs to be thought about and controlled?
A hazard is something that may cause harm or damage. The risk is the harm that may occur from the hazard.	For example: young people, adult volunteers, visitors	Controls are ways of making the activity safer by removing or reducing the risk. For example, you may use a different piece of equipment or you might change the way you do the activity.	Keep checking throughout the activity in case you need to change what you're doing or even stop the activity. This is a great place to add comments which will be used as part of the review.
Slip, trips and falls	Staff, participants, bystanders	Activity area to be selected where slip, trip and fall hazards are minimal. Before each session the area will be checked and any new hazards will be removed or minimised as far as is reasonably practicable. Where a hazard cannot be reduced and presents an ongoing risk, it will be barriered off or its presence visually highlighted to anyone in the vicinity	
Equipment failure causing fall from height	Participants	All equipment to be checked before each use for any damage or excessive wear. PPE to be stored away from any potential causes of damage such as chemicals, heat and sharp items. PPE not to be stored wet. Wet PPE will be hung to dry Elements to be constructed in accordance with operating manual and to be checked before every session.	
Unauthorised access causing fall from height	Tresspassers	Area around each element will be barriered off to make it clear that access is not permitted. Any staff member who observes unauthorised persons on the activity outside of activity times will report this to reception for intervention. Where possible belay ropes will be tied up out of reach from the ground and any low hanging activity equipment will be tied up out of reach. Climbing wall lower panels to be closed when activity not supervised.	
Equipment misuse causing fall from height	Participants, staff	All equipment to be used in accordance with manufacturers instructions including techniques for use and compatibility with other equipment. All staff to follow activity operating manual at all times All staff inducted and assessed by technical advisor to ensure they can use equipment competently. This is to include their belaying to ensure they can belay safely and an indication as to how the participants should be attached to the belay system.	

You can find more information in the Safety checklist for leaders and at scouts.org.uk/safety

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Structural failure	Participants, staff	<p>Trees checked to be of sufficient size/strength before use. Trees must be at least 30cm diameter to be used.</p> <p>Area around trees to be checked for excessive ground compaction or signs of damage to the roots of the trees.</p> <p>Trees checked for any sign of disease such as excessive loose bark, dead or rotted areas or any areas of discolouration.</p> <p>Trees with bifurcations not to be used if the bifurcation is below the height of the activity. Bifurcation above the height of the anchors is acceptable</p> <p>All equipment checked before being installed and visually checked before every session.</p> <p>Equipment used in accordance with manufacturers instructions e.g. no cross loading or tri loading carabiners, slings not girth hitched.</p> <p>Thorough check of all activity equipment carried out after any period of extreme weather.</p>	
Dropped object causing injury	Participants, staff, bystanders	<p>Activity area to be barriered off to prevent unauthorised persons being in the activity area.</p> <p>All persons in the activity area must wear a properly fitted climbing helmet.</p>	
Entanglement/snagging causing degloving injury, suspension at height or asphyxiation	Participants, staff	<p>All participants and staff to remove neckies and lanyards before participating in the activity.</p> <p>Any loose clothing such as excessively baggy tops and hoods to be tucked in or changed.</p> <p>Strings from hoodies to be tucked in or the hoody taken off</p> <p>Long hair to be tied back</p> <p>Rings, earrings, piercings and other jewelery to be removed before the activity. If jewelery cannot be removed it should be covered with tape.</p>	
Rope Burn from ropes	Participants, staff	<p>All staff to be assessed prior to running the activity. All participant belayers to be coached and directly supervised by a staff member when belaying.</p> <p>Ropes to be compatible with the belay devices.</p> <p>Ground anchors with direct or semi direct belaying to be used if there is a significant weight difference between the climber and belayer</p>	
Collision	Participants	<p>All elements to be set up in areas which are clear from obstructions such as branches or other trees.</p> <p>.</p> <p>On elements with 2 climbers, ensure climbers do not climb on the wrong side</p> <p>On elements with moving belays, ensure the belayer, anchor and climber remain close to each other.</p>	
Injury	Participants, staff, bystanders	<p>All aspects of the operating procedure and risk assessment to be followed at all times.</p> <p>First aider and first aid kit available at all times</p>	
Medical event while taking part in the activity	Participants, staff	<p>Anyone who requires emergency medication (e.g. inhaler or adrenaline auto injector) to bring it to the activity and inform a member of staff.</p>	

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		<p>Anyone with a medical condition requiring any adjustment to the activity to inform a member of staff.</p> <p>All activities set up to permit immediate lowering of the participant in an emergency.</p> <p>First aider available during the activity.</p>	
Effects of extreme weather: high winds causing tree failure or deadfall	Participants, staff, bystanders	<p>Activity area checked before being chosen to ensure there is no standing dead wood or hung up branches which could fall</p> <p>During high winds continual dynamic risk assessment carried out by team leader and any concerns about tree failure or falling deadwood to be acted on. Activity to be stopped and all persons to move out of the trees until wind has reduced</p> <p>After any period of high wind, activity area to be throughouly checked by staff members for any hanging deadwood prior to continuing with the activity.</p>	
Effects of extreme weather: Lightning	Participants, Staff, bystanders	<p>If lightning is forecast imminently then activity cannot go ahead.</p> <p>If any thunder is heard then activity to be stopped and the ROSPA 30:30 rule to be followed – If the time between visible lightning and audible thunder is less than 30 seconds then all activity must be stopped and everyone must leave the woods. Activity can be continued 30 minutes after the thunder and lightning has passed.</p>	
Effects of extreme weather: illness	Participants, Staff	<p>Participants and staff to wear clothing appropriate to the weather conditions.</p> <p>Participants wearing inappropriate clothing will be asked to change to appropaite clothing before starting the activity.</p> <p>Participants and staff to be monitored for any effects of extremem weather and preventative steps taken early e.g. shade and rehydration for heat illnesses, dry clothes and rewarming for cold illnesses.</p> <p>First aider available to treat any illness and further support available from camp medical team as required.</p> <p>Participants instructed to bring filled water bottle with them if the weather is warm</p> <p>Shaded area available for participants in warm weather.</p> <p>Participants asked to wear sun cream if it is sunny</p>	
Inappropriate clothing causing skin irritation or leaving wearer exposed to injury indecency	Participants, staff	<p>Appropriate clothing to be worn at all times including top which covers shoulders and tummy and shorts or trousers which go down to the knees.</p> <p>No skirts or kilts to be worn</p> <p>Closed to footwear which cannot fall of to be worn. No flip flops, sandals, crocs or high heels to be worn</p>	
RTC causing injury	Participants, staff	<p>Participants briefed to be mindful of traffic during walk down and to walk on the right at all times. Leader to be at the front and rear of the group. Everyone to stand on the verge when traffic is passing</p>	
Bites and stings causing minor injury, illness	Participants, staff	<p>Areas which will be walked on strummed to reduce nettles etc. Participants recommended to wear long trousers and bring midge repellent. Participants instructed to check for ticks when they are back at subcamp.</p>	

Don't forget, as part of your programme planning, you should have contingency activities in reserve just in case you can't do what was planned or you need to stop half way through. Make sure this is shared with those involved, so everyone knows how to respond. You should have risk assessed contingency activities prior to them taking place and communicated key information to those involved as with all activities.

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