

Blair Atholl Risk Assessment 2026

Name of activity, event, and location	Low Ropes and 3G swing	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.
Fall from height causing minor, moderate or severe injury	Participants	Anyone at height to have a spotter to reduce consequence of a fall. Participants coached on technique to reduce likelihood of fall. Activity area checked before each session to reduce slip, trip or fall hazards. Spotters given instruction on proper spotting technique. Helmets worn to reduce consequence of hitting head during a fall.	
Slips and trips	Participants, leaders	Activity area checked to reduce or remove trip and slip hazards. Any unmanageable hazards to be highlighted. Activity area around low ropes to be barriered off to prevent tripping on the apparatus when not in use.	
Falling branches causing injury	Participants, leaders	Trees around activity area checked for loose branches, signs of disease or other evidence that the tree may fail. Low ropes components only to be mounted to sound branches	
Equipment failure causing injury	Participants	Equipment checked prior to building the low ropes. Low ropes built within limits of the equipment. Low ropes course to be checked for loose connections, loose ropes and wires and any sign of tampering or unauthorised access. Helmets to be checked before use. Any faulty helmets to be quarantined following the quarantine procedure (see SOPs). Trees checked to be of sufficient size/strength before use. Trees must be at least 30cm diameter to be used. Tree health to be checked and any tree with signs of disease or excessive root compaction not to be used	
Unauthorised access causing injury	3 rd Party	Area around low ropes barriered off.	
Entanglement/snagging causing degloving injury, suspension at height or asphyxiation	Participants	All participants and staff to remove neckies and lanyards before participating in the activity. Any loose clothing such as excessively baggy tops and hoods to be tucked in or changed. Strings from hoodies to be tucked in or the hoody taken off Long hair to be tied back	

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

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		Rings, earrings, piercings and other jewellery to be removed before the activity. If jewellery cannot be removed it should be covered with tape.	
Rope Burn from ropes	Participants	Participants given instruction and coaching on how to hold on to the ropes. Ropes used to provide good grip to participants.	
Collisions	Participants	Participants instructed to not move on the same section of low ropes that another participant is on. Anyone on the low ropes must have a spotter to guide them away from any obstacles during a fall Elements located in area with suitable space between trees to reduce likelihood of collision with other trees which are not part of the course.	
Medical event while taking part	Participants	Any participant who becomes unwell will be assisted off the low ropes on to the ground. First aid to be rendered as per normal once participant is on the ground. Anyone who requires emergency medication (e.g. inhaler or adrenaline auto injector) to bring it to the activity and inform a member of staff. Anyone with a medical condition requiring any adjustment to the activity to inform a member of staff.	
Effects of extreme weather: high winds causing tree failure or deadfall	Participants, staff, bystanders	Activity area checked before being chosen to ensure there is no standing dead wood or hung up branches which could fall 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 After any period of high wind, activity area to be thoroughly checked by staff members for any hanging deadwood prior to continuing with the activity.	
Effects of extreme weather: Lightning	Participants, Staff, bystanders	If lightning is forecast imminently then activity cannot go ahead. 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.	
Effects of extreme weather: illness	Participants, Staff	Participants and staff to wear clothing appropriate to the weather conditions. Participants wearing inappropriate clothing will be asked to change to appropriate clothing before starting the activity. Participants and staff to be monitored for any effects of extreme weather and preventative steps taken early e.g. shade and rehydration for heat illnesses, dry clothes and re-warming for cold illnesses. First aider available to treat any illness and further support available from camp medical team as required. Participants instructed to bring filled water bottle with them if the weather is warm Shaded area available for participants in warm weather. Participants asked to wear sun cream if it is sunny	

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RTC causing injury	Participants, staff	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	
Bites and stings causing minor injury, illness	Participants, staff	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.	
3G swing	Participants, staff	See high ropes risk assessment for all hazards and control measures	

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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