

Hautbois Activity Centre Risk Assessment		
High Ropes		
Assessment Code: RA-HRP25	SOP Code: SOP-HRP25	Lesson Plan Code: LP-HRP25
Review Date: March 2026	Assessor: Chris Pretty	Tech Advisor: Jack Wiseman



Description: High Ropes takes place on limepits on a purpose-built course attached to trees. It uses the ZaZa fall arrest system. Ratio of 2:16

SR= Severity Rating; 5 (Catastrophic) 4 (Major) 3 (Moderate) 2 (Minor) 1 (None)

LH=Likelihood Rating 5 (Almost certain) 4 (Likely) 3 (Possible) 2 (Unlikely) 1 (Insignificant)


RR= Risk Rating; A (Acceptable Risk) RR (Residual Risk remains despite controls- 'occupational hazard') U (Unacceptable Risk, action to be taken immediately)

Significant Hazard	Persons at Risk	How	Controls	Severity	Likelihood	Risk Rating
Incorrectly fitted or faulty equipment	Participants, leaders & instructors	Incorrectly fitted harnesses & helmets may result in participant falling or having their airway restricted. Faulty equipment could result in a fall or serious injury.	Safe Operating Procedures adhered to. All equipment fitted by a competent Instructor holding the Girlguiding Level 1, or higher qualification/training plus in-house trained and competency-tested by the Assessor. All equipment visually and physically checked by instructor to ensure correct fitting including once being worn by participants before every go. Regular activity & PPE checks carried out to ensure all equipment is fit for purpose. Any defected items removed from service and placed in quarantine for inspection by a senior member of staff. Instructors to attach all participants to the ZaZa fall arrest system.	3	2	RR
Equipment Failure - problems with equipment or high ropes course.	Participants, leaders & instructors	Risk of falling or injury from unsafe and unsound attachment.	Annual inspections carried out by external assessor. Monthly checks of equipment and course by Activities Team to highlight any potential issues, PPE checks carried out every 6 months and recorded.	3	1	A
Entrapment	Participants	Hair becoming trapped in the device such as the kong zip speed.	All long hair tied back; baggy clothing restrained. Proper instruction to prevent entrapment during abseil. Instructor to position themselves to ensure that participants remain in full view throughout.	3	2	RR
Unsupervised use	Participants, leaders	Any group or individual staying on site. Climbing onto activity and falling causing injury.	Group information pack informs group leaders that all activities are out of bounds unless on a pre-booked supervised session. Fencing acts as a boundary to the activity site. Clear signage.	3	1	A
Being hit by falling objects	Participants, leaders & instructors	When going around the course under other participants items being dropped from participants pockets.	Hard hats to be worn always while the high ropes session is running. Participants briefed to remove items from pockets, shoes are tied at beginning of session for safety and comfort. Safe viewing area is shown to group.	2	1	A
Slip, trips & falls	Participants, leaders & instructors	Participants moving too quickly on obstacles or platforms, tripping over attachment points. Platforms becoming slippery.	All clients to be reminded to walk and to be vigilant when walking around the activity area and on the course. All participants to be supervised by an instructor. High ropes platforms to be inspected and cleaned regularly. Only three participants per platform to allow for adequate space	2	2	A

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Poor Instruction	Participants	Rope burns, slipping, minor Poor belaying technique. Falls.	Instructors qualified to Girl Guiding Level 1, ERCA instructor or above i.e. CWI, RCI or MIA. Additional in-house training and rescue assessment carried out by the assessor is required. All instructors carry first aid kits for minor injuries. Instructors to position themselves to ensure that participants remain in full view throughout.	2	1	A
Incorrect use of zipwire trolley and ZaZa fall arrest system	Participants	Not attaching the trolley before zipwire obstacles. Not correctly attaching the ZaZa fall arrest system.	All participants to complete the practice course and zipwire under instructor supervision. Participants can only continue onto the full course upon a successful loop of the practice course demonstrating an understand of when to use the zipwire trolley and how to attach the device. Instructors must attach all participants to the ZaZa continuous belay system at the start of the practice course and main high ropes course. All high rope sessions will have an instructor trained in high ropes rescues. If a self-rescue is not possible then instructors can rescue participants from the course where appropriate.	3	2	RR
Injury sustained when using zipwire run off ramps	Participants	Participants stopping themselves too quickly on the ramps. Participants lifting feet up resulting in a collision with the tree.	Fixed length lanyards measured to bring participants into the ramp at appropriate height. Trees have crash mats secured around them to absorb impacts into the tree if they occur. Weight limit of 18 stone in place to ensure participants come in at appropriate height and speeds on zipwires.			

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Hautbois Activity Centre Safe Operating Procedure			
High Ropes SOP-HRP25			
	RA-HRP25	LP-HRP25	
Review Date: March 2026			
Must be used in conjunction with Generic Safe Operating Procedure (SOP-GEN)			

Qualifications Required: (Instructors must be at least 18 years of age)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimum - Current Girlguiding UK Level 1 Climbing and Abseiling award for guiding groups and/or a Current LEA Climbing and Abseil Award for Non-Guiding Groups E.g. Climbing Wall Supervisors Award or ERCA Instructor. • In house high ropes activity training and assessment - separate in house training and external assessment for high ropes rescues.
Activity Area:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A high ropes instructor must carry out a full inspection of the course at the start of each day when the high ropes is in use. • Visual check of the ZaZa system, platforms, trees and obstacles for damage or deadfall. • Visual check of Safety lanyards and anchor slings
Equipment: Visual checks of all equipment must be done before each session.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harnesses to be loosened and laid out ready for the group, Joko lanyard must be attached to all harnesses prior to the session • Helmets to be laid out with harnesses fully loosened. • Instructor must be fitted with a Helmet and harness during the session and the inspections. • The custom Joko lanyards must be girth hitched onto the trolley and harness; the remaining length of lanyard will have a ZaZa high ropes carabiner attached which will be secured in place with a retaining pin. • The high ropes rescue equipment will need inspecting prior to every session.
Session Management:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participants to be asked to remove personal items such as phone from pockets and rings from fingers. • Introduce and explain the correct fitting of the harnesses and Helmets • Each participants harness and helmet must be checked by the instructor before they can start the practice high ropes course • The following safety rules must be highlighted to all participants (confirming their understanding) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Helmets must be worn in the fenced area at all times. • If Helmets or Harnesses are taken off at any point in the session, they must be checked for correct fitting by the instructor before the participant can continue. • Participants are not able to overtake other participants on the course • Participants are told only one person can be on an obstacle at one time. Instructors can mitigate this for themselves when completing rescues • Participants are informed that there can only be a maximum of 3 people per platform • Participants shown and talked through the process of getting their ZaZa over the attachment brackets. • Participants shown and talked through the process of attaching their trolley and how to identify an element requires a trolley. Extra emphasis on checking the zip wire is clear before starting this process. • Participants shown and talked through the process of landing at the end of a zipwire. Emphasis on running up the ramps or using your feet to slow down if coming in sideways or backwards. • The instructor must check the participants connection prior to starting the course. • Participants are informed that they should avoid holding onto metal components or wires around the course and to hold onto their lanyard during zip wires. • Following the final session of the day all equipment must be returned to store and any faults or defect be reported to Senior staff. • Any incidents/near misses with the participants must be reported to the Centre Manager and an Incident form completed as appropriate. • In the event of an emergency Instructors to follow the Staff accident and incident emergency procedure.

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