Lindley Educational Trust Hollowford Centre + other approved sites	**Risk Assessment** **Ropes Courses** **Inc. High Ropes, Low Ropes & Zip Wire**	Current as of January 2026 By Paul Booker Review date by 31 January 2027

Benefit Statement	These activities provide the opportunity to undertake personal challenge, with support and encouragement from the rest of their group– thus helping people understand the value and importance of teamwork.

HAZARD	RISK	CONTROL MEASURE	FURTHER ACTION REQURED	RESPONSIBILITY / DUE & COMPLETED DATES
General	Various injuries	Code of Practice applies Suitably qualified & experienced instructor (includes First Aid). New instructors will receive a full induction Clear briefings & supervision All accidents, near misses and incidents are recorded and appropriate action undertaken as required. Safety reviewed in staff meetings. Seek & share information with similar providers	No further action at this stage	
For every session there will be a dynamic risk assessment on arrival and will be on going throughout the activity session				
Extreme Weather	Sunburn Hypothermia Hyperthermia	Instructor to check weather forecast prior to session & observe conditions throughout. If necessary stop activity and move to safety (indoors). Change plans as necessary Ensure participants have suitable & adequate clothing plus access to warm (or cold) drinks Remind visiting staff & young people about sun protection. High Ropes & Zip Wire NOT to be used during (or if real threat of) thunderstorms	No further action at this stage	
Approval of other sites – As there is no industry standard as regards an inspection regime, each site will be asked to provide evidence of inspection of equipment and supply details of their inspection procedures and inspection intervals – Head of Centre or Deputy at Lindley will decide whether a new site is approved for use or not.				
Equipment Failure	Various injuries	All equipment checked prior to use. Regular checks, maintenance & renewal schedule All equipment to correspond to required standards Personal protective equipment checked for correct fitting & monitored throughout activity by the instructor Design & construction limit participant weight to a 120kg / 18.5 stone maximum on single a single belay	On going discussion with external contractor re options for the heavier client	
Construction Failure	Serious injury	Monthly, documented inspection procedure Bi-annual safety inspection by external contractor Visual checks prior to every use	No further action at this stage	

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Fall From height (High Ropes & Zip Wire)	Serious injury	Participants not to leave ground until tied-in / clipped as appropriate & checked by instructor. Briefing & supervision Staff to be belayed when climbing poles – staples are NOT load bearing Staff to use rope grab device when accessing zip wire platform and secured to attachment point whist operating on platform	No further action at this stage	
Falling objects	Serious injury	Helmets worn on, below & close to the activity site. Briefing & supervision Ladders to be secured or 'footed' Pockets secured / suitable footwear	No further action at this stage	
Belayer Error	Serious injury Death	Qualified instructor Briefing & supervision Peer belaying – should not normally reliant on a single person	No further action at this stage	
Entrapment (equipment)	Various injuries	Briefing –loose hair & clothing to be tied back	No further action at this stage	
Participants	Various	Participants asked to share relevant previous & existing medical issues Visiting group leaders asked any other (eg behavioural) issues Staff ratios (group size) amended as required	No further action at this stage	
Participant hurt / stuck at height	Access and time to reach participant at height	Qualified instructor Briefing & supervision If possible lower participant to ground – get them to untangle / sort themselves out 2 instructors on-site so that any rescuer can be belayed / supported. Last resort dial 999 and ask for fire service if stuck at height.	No further action at this stage	

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Individual elements – High Ropes				
Jacobs Ladder	Various injuries	Briefing & supervision – watch for central person changing sides. Cables. Careful lowering	No further action at this stage	
Beer Crate	Various injuries	Briefing & supervision Low stretch ropes to be used Crates to be passed not thrown Max 2 crates high if not tied-on Everyone should be aware of danger risk relating to falling crates	No further action at this stage	
Leap of Faith	Various injuries	Briefing & supervision – ropes getting caught on blocks. If appropriate touch trapeze bar rather than grab to reduce risk of shoulder injury. Consider pulley position	No further action at this stage	
High All Aboard	Various injuries	Briefing & supervision – avoid rope tangles by staying in own corner. Belay devices tied off when climber in position. Min 1:1 climber:belayer	No further action at this stage	
Indiana Bridge	Various injuries	Briefing & supervision. Rope getting caught on bridge when traversing lower pole. Climber ascending between bridge ropes rather than out side. Although can be used both ways normal for climber to ascend & be lowered on outside of course	No further action at this stage	
Low Ropes and Challenge Course	Various injuries	Briefing & supervision – to include spotting where appropriate. Platforms can be slippery in wet weather. Brief to include trip hazard of wire. Whenever possible instructors should avoid allowing more than 1 person traversing a given section of wire. Trees kept trimmed back, pea gravel or grassed floor	No further action at this stage	
Also see risk assessment for Problem Solving & Ice Breakers for sections of challenge course that are often used as standalone elements				

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Pole across small pond	Various injuries	Platforms and Pole can be slippery in wet weather. Pond is less than 1.5 mtrs deep and weeds in water cleared fairly often	No further action at this stage	
Low all Aboard (swinging rope new 2014)	Various injuries	Briefing & supervision – to include spotting where appropriate.	No further action at this stage	
Zig Zag bridge (new 2014)	Various Injuries	Briefing & supervision – to include spotting where appropriate. Good landing area as they exit rope tunnel. Be aware that cross planks can be slippery when wet.	No further action at this stage	
Mini Zip Wire	Various Injuries	Briefing & supervision – to include spotting where appropriate. Ensure they are properly sat on pommer seat before leaving platform	No further action at this stage	
Zip Wire	Various injuries	Briefing & supervision – must cover demonstration of lower off at end of run to prevent fall to ground (< 2 ft) Ensure no entrapment with safety lines prior to take off	No further action at this stage	