


RISK ASSESSMENT

LOCATION/ACTIVITY/ISSUE BEING ASSESSED:	Low Ropes at Dinton Activity Centre	
SERVICE/TEAM:	Countryside Service	
NAME OF ASSESSOR(s):	Mike Bennett	
DATE OF ASSESSMENT:	December 2025	
DATE FOR REVIEW:	December 2026	
APPROVED BY:	Signature:	Date:03/03/2026
		
	Name: Gemma Wilford	

SUMMARY (* delete as appropriate)	
Risk level without additional controls:	HIGH / MEDIUM / LOW
Additional control measures required:	YES / NO
Risk level with additional controls:	HIGH / MEDIUM / LOW

What are the significant hazards?	What could go wrong? Who could be harmed and how?	What is being done to control the risks?	Amendment notes
Falling off equipment	<p>Fall or jump from equipment, against tree or onto sharp/hard object</p> <p>Impact with tree, wire or object on ground</p> <p>Strained/sprained ankles/wrists Knee impact Head Injury Broken bone</p> <p>Staff and Participants are both at risk</p>	<p>Staff to check course before each use to ensure nothing is missing and that cables are not frayed. Check the start and end of each cable for four clamps with two tight bolts in each. Walk the course checking for deadwood that has fallen off and for anything sharp on the ground under and around the course.</p> <p>Staff to brief and demonstrate to participants in correct way to step up onto and off wires. Brief on 'safe' way to fall if participant feels like they are slipping.</p>	

		<p>Staff to demonstrate safe foot placement on wire when travelling along it.</p> <p>Participants should not use their hands or knees to travel along the wires.</p> <p>Check weather forecast: wet or cold weather can make ground or low ropes course slippery. Staff to deliver safety briefing to participants before activities commence. Buddy partner to assist with route finding.</p> <p>Helmets to be worn if leaving the ground.</p>	
Damaged / faulty equipment	<p>Equipment breakage causing impact of participant. Cuts from damaged equipment</p> <p>Staff Participants</p>	<p>Pre-use and bi-annual equipment inspection – to include torque checking of all bolts (10mm wire at 10nm)</p> <p>Yearly independent inspection of elements and trees.</p> <p>Equipment to be checked and sharp wire edges to be taped securely.</p>	
Entanglement in equipment	<p>Participant becomes entrapped in equipment</p>	<p>Briefing to include what is considered to be suitable clothing for activity and removal of jewellery and loose clothing. Long hair tied back. Remind the participants that the buddy is to help with guidance and not spotting or fall protection.</p>	
Splinters	<p>All staff and participants at risk from wooden low ropes elements</p>	<p>Wooden structures monitored during yearly checks by independent company, and quarterly checks by staff.</p> <p>Participants briefed at start of the session</p>	

<p>Being fallen on by participant or tree branch</p>	<p>Participant or staff slipping from course and falling on someone else</p>	<p>Safe processes of moving through course, including buddy system for support and assistance included in the safety brief.</p> <p>Low ropes course inspected before each session checking for signs of loose or dead tree branches. Any damaged branches removed or monitored as appropriate</p> <p>A tree survey is carried out yearly</p>	
<p>Unsupervised use of equipment</p>	<p>Incorrect use or injury due to unsupervised use.</p> <p>Increased public traffic walking to and from Lea Heath from Activity Centre building</p> <p>Member of public Participants in other activities</p>	<p>Low ropes course fenced off from public access and warning notices displayed. Equipment needs to be tidied away after use.</p> <p>Padlock on gate to prevent unauthorised access.</p>	
<p>Misuse of course and inappropriate behaviour</p>	<p>Horseplay resulting in injury, to those on the course or on the ground.</p> <p>Cuts from putting hands on wire support</p>	<p>Adequate staff ratios and safety briefing. Maximum Ratio 12:1 for all ages 8:1 for under 8's or School Year 3 and below</p> <p>Dynamic risk assessment of challenges and games employed.</p> <p>Only six elements are used per instructor at any one time, as it is not possible to supervise the entire course with one pair of eyes.</p> <p>One person traversing per section unless more people are needed as part of a game or challenge. Participants may wait on the end or start of an element as long as they do not hinder the person traversing the element.</p>	

		<p>Buddies are not to hinder the climber e.g., wobbling the course – importance to be covered in safety briefing</p> <p>Briefing to explain process of hands-on ropes and wood, and wires are for feet exclusively.</p> <p>Instructor to have a whistle for group management if urgent attention / stop is needed.</p>	
--	--	--	--

REVIEWS AND REVISIONS					
Review date	Name of Assessor	Is assessment still valid?	If not, list adjustments with details of who will action and by when	Approved by Manager	Date of next review
Feb 2020	Nicola Dennis	Yes	Note added as to 'safe falling' and 'safe foot placement on wires'. Note added to bring RA in line with COP's as to only using half the course (6 elements) per instructor. Chesnutt paling to be added to fence by April 2020.	Tanya Lee	Feb 2021
22/04/2020	Tanya Lee	Yes	Chesnutt paling delayed due to activity centre closure as a result of COVID19. Amended target date of May half term, but could be further pushed back.	Tanya Lee	
March 2021	Sophie Wooldridge	Yes	Updated references to COP's	Jack Walling	Feb 2022
Feb 2022	Nicola Dennis	Yes	Updated references to COPs Added 'Increased public traffic walking to and from Lea Heath from Activity Centre building'		
Feb 2023	Isabel R.S.	Yes	Corrected the reference to COP's, Padlock to Gate. Added inspection notes.	Richard Ashwell	March 2024
Dec 2023	Mike Bennett	Yes	Updated traversing elements. Delivered amendments added to main body of risks and removed from future amendments.	Richard Ashwell	March 2025
Dec 2024	Mike Bennett	Yes	No Significant changes	Mike Bennett	Dec 2025