

Risk assessment.

Name of activity, event, and location	Zip Line Bowley International Scout Centre	Date of risk assessment	10 th August 2026	Completed by	Gavin Cox
		Date of next review	4 th February 2027	Authorised by	Chris Taylor

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.
Hazard: General injuries or accidents from poor behaviour, or novice participants taking part in adventurous activities Risk: Personal injury	Participants Instructors	Clear responsibilities are outlined in the terms and conditions and/or safety briefing to ensure accompanying adults understand that they are responsible for supervising the group's behaviour. Give an activity safety briefing to help orientate participants and identify any specific hazards and safety rules they must follow. Check that rules (including boundaries) were understood and are followed.	
Hazard: Misuse of equipment Risk: Personal injury and/or fatality	Participants Instructors	Brief the group about what must and must not be done on the activity and with the equipment. Use demonstrations and check understanding. Manage the activity accordingly as per training. Give participants the opportunity to practice using safety critical equipment safely before a participant starts. Stay vigilant for developing hazards as the session progresses. Monitor and manage group behaviour and use of equipment throughout – if appropriate use accompanying adults to help check instructions are followed.	

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

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		Be especially vigilant when new participants are managing safety systems they are not yet familiar with (e.g. descent from the zip wire)	
Hazard: Injury from unsupervised use of equipment Risk: Personal injury and/or fatality	Anyone	Visual deterrents used where deemed to benefit – e.g. signage, fences, etc. Where possible remove equipment or make inaccessible when you leave the activity. At least one instructor must be present throughout any booked session.	
Hazard: Injury in the waiting area Risk: Personal injury		Make participants aware of any specific hazards of the waiting area – e.g. if there are trip hazards, or areas which should be avoided. Ask the accompanying adult to supervise the group, ensuring rules are followed. Tidy away any unused equipment and manage safety systems (e.g. tidy ropes) Check everyone has suitable clothing during the activity, including suitable footwear for the conditions and task (consider grip, closed toes, ankle support) Be vigilant for behavioural issues if group members are become disengaged, use the accompanying adult to manage these.	
Hazard: Entrapment of hair Risk: Personal injury	Participants	Participants must have any long hair tied up. Helmet must be worn to minimise risk of hair becoming caught in equipment.	
Hazard: Fall from height Risk: Personal injury and/or fatality	Participants Instructors	Ensure clear and thorough briefing prior to activity. Participants not to leave ground until tied in and checked by Instructor.	
Hazard: Belayer error Risk: Personal injury and/or fatality	Participants Instructors	Trained Instructors only to supervise peer belaying for this activity. If any participants go beyond the provisions of the risk assessment, the instructor will request that they leave. If they refuse the activity will be suspended.	

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Hazard: Equipment failure Risk: Personal injury	Participants Instructors	All equipment checked prior to use. Regular checks, maintenance and renewal schedule. All equipment to comply with current standards. PPE checked for correct fitting and monitored throughout activity. Damaged safety equipment will be removed from use immediately upon identification and placed in the quarantine bin for further inspection. Bowley General Manager to be made aware of damaged equipment. Equipment must not be removed from the quarantine bin by BISC	
Hazard: Extreme weather Risk: Sunburn, hypothermia, hyperthermia	Participants	Instructor to check weather forecasts before activity, observe throughout, stop activity if necessary and move to safety. Ensure participants have suitable clothing and access to warm/cold drinks. Brief on sun protection.	
Hazard: Environmental Risk: Personal injury	Participants Instructors	If lightning is forecast the prevailing weather conditions must be observed at the start of the activity must stop if lightning is seen during the activity.	

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.

Audit history

Version 1 – 9/2/2025

. Version 2 – 4/2/2025 Reviewed by Gavin Cox. No changes made

Version 3 – 10/8/2026. Additional risk identified re hair entrapment. New mitigation of helmet to be worn by participant.

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