

# Grizedale Zip Trekking Adventure Risk Assessment

<b>SUBJECT: Zip Trekking</b>	<b>RISK ASSESSMENT NUMBER: ZT/01/2017</b>
<b>Reviewed by: Operations Team/Site Manager and Health and Safety Manager – February 2018</b>	<b>REVIEW DATE: January 2019</b>

Assessing risks is simple in principle. It involves identifying hazards or examining what in a particular situation could cause harm or damage and then assessing the likelihood that harm will actually be experienced by a specified population and what the consequences would be (i.e. the risk). The overall objective is to obtain a view on how to manage the risk or to compare the risk with other risks. At a conceptual level, it has proved useful to make a distinction between an assessment of the risks (the evaluation of the likelihood of harm and its consequences for populations or individuals as described above) and risk control (the prioritisation of risks and the introduction of measures that might be put in place to reduce, if not prevent, the harm from occurring). This stems from the belief that an assessment of risks by and large can be scientific and objective but risk control less so because it integrates the results of an assessment of risks with other critical inputs. ([www.hse.gov.uk/risk](http://www.hse.gov.uk/risk))

## Step 1. Identify the Hazards.

<b>Step 2. Identify “Who may be harmed?”</b>	Course User	People who are taking part in the High Wire Activity Course
	Employees	All Adventure Forest employees.
	Public	The general public who are not actually taking part in the course (spectators or forest users).
	Contractors	People working for a company or individual contracted by Go Ape to work on or around the course, etc.

## Step 3. Evaluate the Risk.

### LIKELIHOOD

Very low	Definitely will not happen
Low	Unlikely to happen
Medium	Moderate chance of accident happening
High	Quite likely to happen
Very high	Likelihood will happen

### CONSEQUENCE

Very low	Injury very insignificant i.e. splinters
Low	Injury fairly minor i.e. minor cut, grazes, bruising
Medium	Injury would stop casualty continuing with task.
High	Serious injury requiring medical assistance i.e. broken bones, deep cut
Very high	Very serious injury or possible fatality

**Step 4. Existing Control Measures <sup>2</sup>.** These are the measure we have put in place to keep the risk to an acceptable level. The Residual Risk (RR) is the level of risk that remains after putting all the control measures into practice.

## RESIDUAL RISK

Very low	Minimal risk, control measure more than necessary
Low	Control measures satisfactory
Medium	Control measures adequate
High	Control measure requires constant supervision. Re-assess situation
Very high	Control measures inadequate. Stop activity

**Step 5. The Review Process.** Go Ape risk assessments will be reviewed when it is suspected that the assessment is no longer valid or there has been a significant change. In addition they will be thoroughly reviewed annually.

SER	HAZARD	LHD	CON	WHO MIGHT BE HARMED	CONTROL MEASURES	FURTHER CONTROL MEASURES: reviewed annually to formulate Risk Reduction Plan	RR
ZT01	Fall from height	Low	High	Course Users Staff Unauthorised users	<p>Course Users -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Course construction.</li> <li>• Course users PPE.</li> <li>• Safety Brief.</li> <li>• Two Instructors accompany group.</li> </ul> <p>Unauthorised Users –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Access paths from forest road gated with signage.</li> <li>• Further signage on and close to platforms.</li> <li>• Platforms fitted with balustrades, handrails, chain and no entry sign at stairs to deter access.</li> <li>• Foreseeable risk of falling.</li> <li>• Remote location of Zips 2 – 7 away from public pathways.</li> <li>• Zip 1 (visible and close to forest road) has signage displayed on the Zip Wire whenever not in use. A 8’ pole fitted to zip is in place when the course is not operational.</li> <li>• Construction – see Construction documents and ERCA inspection.</li> <li>• Inaugural Inspection Report.</li> <li>• PPE – see relative PPE documents and Go Ape Fall from Height Risk Assessment.</li> <li>• All Zips secured each night (and if course left unused for over 2 hours).</li> <li>• Gates, barriers and signage.</li> </ul>		Low

ZT03	Zip Collision	Low	High	Course Users Staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Course construction.</li> <li>• Clear lines of sight maintained.</li> <li>• Lines of sight monitored by all staff members and participants with use of binoculars prior to and during use.</li> <li>• Use of two instructors, one at bottom and top with radio communication.</li> <li>• Clearly communicated to participants at safety brief.</li> <li>• Radio communication between top and bottom of Zip Wire.</li> </ul>	<p>Any Zip Assists that are required will be recorded and data analysed for further control measures or procedures.</p> <p>Accurate records kept of those who fail to reach the landing site. Monitor weather conditions specifically prevailing winds.</p> <p>Tree surgeon to attend regularly; annually and on request.</p> <p>FC monitor trees outside Go Ape ZT route.</p>	Very Low
ZT04	Landing at high speed	Med	High	Course Users Staff	<p>Zip Stop braking system (refer to construction documents and Zip Stop Manual.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All sites fitted with a secondary braking system.</li> <li>• Annual servicing.</li> <li>• Periodic checks according to Zip Stop Manual.</li> <li>• Daily recorded checks and function tests – refer to Opening the Course Document.</li> <li>• Impact Buffer re-set monitored by instructors, course users and radio procedures.</li> <li>• Instructor positioned in landing site.</li> <li>• Participants trained in safety brief.</li> <li>• Instructors ensure zip stops are reset before moving to next section.</li> <li>• Monthly recorded inspections.</li> <li>• Landing Site shaped and maintained using wood chip</li> </ul>	<p>Any malfunction recorded including details of weather conditions.</p>	Low

					(refer to Go Ape Landing Site documents).	
ZT05	Failure of Primary Brake	Med	High	Course Users Staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use of 2<sup>nd</sup> instructor in landing site.</li> <li>• Participants given clear guidance in safety brief.</li> <li>• Daily, monthly and annual recorded inspections.</li> <li>• Primary brake system is protected by plastic coating sheath.</li> <li>• Break testing carried out on reduction line rope.</li> </ul>	Low
ZT06	Failure of reduction lines not set correctly	Med	High	Course Users Staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use of 1<sup>st</sup> instructor in landing site.</li> <li>• Participants given clear guidance in the safety brief.</li> <li>• Failure to set correctly, the 1<sup>st</sup> instructor will check and re-set up correctly.</li> <li>• Any further issues the 1<sup>st</sup> instructor will stop any customers go down the zip wire.</li> <li>• Annual replacement of reduction line.</li> <li>• Reduction line modified to create 50% redundancy in high abrasion reduction.</li> <li>• Reduction lines high impact zones are changed for a longer replaceable section and backed up with harder wearing low stretch rope with plastic spiral wrap covering.</li> </ul>	Low
ZT07	Vision impairment on Zip 7, Left and Right (longest zip wires)	Med	High	Course Users Staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aerial balls added to overhead wires to aid visibility.</li> </ul>	Low

ZT08	Extraction of Injured Person(s) at none roadside locations	Low	High	Employees Course Users Contractors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Instructing staff to direct incoming ambulances.</li> <li>Liaise with emergency service control.</li> <li>First Aid trained staff.</li> <li>Use of customer vehicle if and when appropriate.</li> <li>Use of Mountain Rescue Team if required, prior liaison with local team.</li> </ul>	Research being undertaken by site on identifying potential black spot locations	Low
	<p>Remote Nature of activity, leading to delays in rescue or assistance and possible</p> <p>adverse weather affects (cold and/or wet)</p>	Med	Med	Employees Course Users Contractors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Instructors in radio communication with each other and base at all times (site aware where black spots exist).</li> <li>Zip Trek bag includes a mobile phone for emergency use.</li> <li>Zip Trek bag contains, 4–6 man emergency shelters, thermal blankets and a first aid kit.</li> <li>Liaison with emergency services including mountain rescue teams.</li> </ul>		Low
ZT09	Accident whilst in company vehicles	Low	High	Employees Course Users Onlookers Contractors Other forest users	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use of two instructors – 2<sup>nd</sup> instructor to interact with participants whilst driver remains focused on driving.</li> <li>ZT new staff will receive familiarisation training from Site Manager.</li> <li>All driving staff, hold a full driving license.</li> <li>All roads are to be driven at an appropriate speed and within speedlimits.</li> <li>All passengers and driver to wear seat belts.</li> <li>In-house training/awareness provided, particularly to the</li> </ul>		Low

					<p>possibility of mountain bikers and their routes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vehicles regularly serviced (MOT and annual service).</li> <li>• Daily recorded vehicle checks.</li> </ul>	
ZT10	Road Crossing on walking route	Low	High	Course Users Employees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Staff to manage group at crossing.</li> <li>• All users are over 13 years of age.</li> <li>• In accordance with booking conditions, 13-16 year olds will have a guardian Awareness covered in Safety Brief.</li> </ul>	Low
ZT11	Collision with pedestrians/vehicles and other forest users	Low	High	Course users Employees Contractors Mountain Bikers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gates and signage.</li> <li>• Awareness in Safety Brief.</li> <li>• Agreed direction of travel for customer vehicles.</li> </ul>	Low
ZT12	Adverse Weather – Electrical Storm, lightning strike	Low	High	Course Users Employees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Refer to Course Evacuation document procedure.</li> <li>• Identified evacuation points.</li> <li>• Liaison with Forestry Commission.</li> <li>• Weather station installed at ZT briefing site.</li> <li>• Accompanying instructor leads group to road to await vehicles.</li> <li>• Duty Manager awareness of conditions/forecast.</li> </ul>	Low
ZT13	Freezing conditions affecting Zip Stop Function	Low	Med	Course Users Employees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Refer to Zip Stop Manual.</li> <li>• Opening function checks (Zip Stop Function Tests document).</li> <li>• Duty Manager awareness of conditions and Landing Sites that are prone to be affected.</li> </ul>	Low

ZT14	Dropping of objects to the forest floor by Zip Trekkers whilst on a zip wire.	Low	High	Other Forest Users	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Safety Brief emphasises all cameras etc. must be attached at all times.</li> <li>• Staff to remain vigilant during a session that all materials remain firmly attached to customers while on a zip wire.</li> </ul>	Low
Refs	Generic Go Ape Risk Assessment Part 1 Generic Go Ape Risk Assessment Part 2 HSE Information Sheet Entertainment Sheet No 14 HSE 5 Steps to Risk assessment INDG 163 HSE A Guide to Risk Assessment requirements INDG 218					

**Note 1: Control Measures** - Where a control measure has been identified, it is only included once and not repeated under every serial number. Therefore for a specific hazard identified, a control measure in a serial above may apply to that hazard. (HSE RA guidance.)

**Note 2: Instructors Training** - Go Ape instructors must pass through a rigorous training and assessment programme before they can instruct on Go Ape. To be selected for training prospective instructors must demonstrate they have the requisite aptitude and experience. They then undergo training in safety instruction and procedures, operational limits on the use of the course, course inspections during daily course opening and closing, patrolling techniques, personal protective equipment, harness fitting and inspection, emergency operations, health and safety and customer management. Only instructors with climbing experience and the correct aptitude are selected for additional training in rope rescue techniques. Instructors are First Aid trained. Go Ape’s training objectives and rescue procedures have been developed in conjunction with an external specialist technical advisor who holds the Mountaineering Instructors Certificate and the European Mountain Leader Award (rescue procedures updated in 2005 by Berwyn Evans MIC). Assessment of rescue trained instructors is only carried out by our trained and qualified persons, who have been formally assessed as competent to do so by the Operations Manager responsible for training.