

# RISK ASSESSMENT FOR GO APE, ADVENTURE FOREST LIMITED



**SUBJECT: Continuous Belay**

**RISK ASSESSMENT REF: School Groups 02/2020**

**WRITTEN BY: Operations Team & Head of Health, Safety & Wellbeing**

Risk Matrix							
Risk rating guidance	Likelihood (L)	5	5	10	15	20	25
		4	4	8	12	16	20
		3	3	6	9	12	15
		2	2	4	6	8	10
		1	1	2	3	4	5
		1	1	2	3	4	5
		Severity (S)					
Acceptability of risk guidance	<b>High-risk: 15 – 25</b>		High-risk activities should cease immediately. Further effective control measures to mitigate risks must be introduced.				
	<b>Medium-risk: 8 – 12</b>		Medium-risks are an acceptable level based on the reduced likelihood after sufficient control measures are implemented				
	<b>Low-risk: 1-6</b>		Low-risks are largely acceptable. Where it is reasonable to do so, efforts should be made to reduce risks further.				
Guidance. When completing a risk assessment, you should:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Identify the persons at risk and the significant hazards.</li> <li>2. Calculate an initial RR for the activity.</li> <li>3. Identify risk control measures that reduce the risks to an acceptable level.</li> <li>4. Calculate a revised RR - you should consider how much safer the task will be if the control measures are followed. Here, you should consider changing both the likelihood (L) and the severity (S) ratings.</li> </ol>						
<b>Note.</b> Ideally, you should look to reduce the risks so that the task can be classified as "low-risk".							

Likelihood	Definition	Points rating
<b>Inevitable</b>	If the work continues as it is, there is almost 100% certainty that an accident will happen, for examples: A broken stair or broken rung on a ladder, Bare, exposed electrical conductors, Unstable stacks of heavy boxes	<b>5</b>
<b>Highly likely</b>	Will happen more often than not. Additional factors could precipitate an incident but it is still likely to happen without this additional factor.	<b>4</b>
<b>Possible</b>	The accident may occur if additional factors precipitate it, but it is unlikely to happen without them.	<b>3</b>
<b>Unlikely</b>	This incident or illness might occur but the probability is low and the risk minimal.	<b>2</b>
<b>Remote possibility</b>	There is really no risk present. Only under freak conditions could there be any possibility of an accident or illness. All reasonable precautions have been taken - This should be the normal state of the workplace.	<b>1</b>

Severity	Definition	Points rating
<b>Very high</b>	Causing multiple deaths and widespread destruction eg. fire, course/building collapse.	<b>5</b>
<b>High</b>	Causing death, serious injury or permanent disability to an individual.	<b>4</b>
<b>Moderate</b>	Temporary disability causing injury (to member of the public, contractor or employees) or disease capable of keeping an employee off work for seven days or more and reportable under RIDDOR (Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 1995).	<b>3</b>
<b>Slight</b>	Minor injury (to member of the public, contractor or employee), which would allow the individual to continue work after first aid treatment on site or at a local surgery. The duration of the stoppage or treatment is such that the normal flow of work is not seriously interrupted.	<b>2</b>
<b>Nil</b>	Very minor injury, bruise, graze, no risk of disease.	<b>1</b>

**The Review Process.** This risk assessment will be reviewed when it is suspected that the assessment is no longer valid or there has been a significant change. In addition, it will be reviewed annually.



No.	HAZARD	L	S	RR	WHO MIGHT BE HARMED	CONTROL MEASURES	FURTHER CONTROL MEASURES: reviewed annually to formulate Risk Reduction Plan	L	S	RR
	<p>Falling to the ground, onto another person, onto another part of the course or another object due to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Deliberately removing equipment or unclipping from the safety system then slipping, jumping or falling, either unintentionally or intentionally</li> <li>Being attached on to the safety cable (system) incorrectly</li> <li>Failure of part of the course infrastructure</li> <li>PPE failure, incorrect selection, use, fitting, etc</li> <li>Tree/Pole/support structure failure, falling over or onto the course, etc</li> <li>Slips and trips</li> </ul> <p>This could happen whilst opening or closing the course,</p>	4	4	16	<p>Employees Course Users Contractors Onlookers Trespassers</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continuous Belay Safety System does not require course users to remove their trolley at any point.</li> <li>Instructors to attach customers to safety system on the ground (exception Bedgebury, Moors Valley &amp; Chessington Challenge Courses)</li> <li>On Adventure Courses minimum height of 1m wearing footwear to enable users to move their safety line around the safety system. Height markers installed. Instructors carry out check.</li> <li>Under 6 year olds to be accompanied by an adult (1:2) to assist with safety lines.</li> <li>On Challenge Courses minimum height 1m_40.</li> <li>Maximum weight of 20.5 stone / 130 kg due to load limits of course (Altus load testing advice). Scales provided at sites. Information provided to customers on booking confirmation documents, RAD and website.</li> <li>Anyone deemed to be under the influence of alcohol or drugs is not permitted access onto the course.</li> <li>Anyone who does not have the correct footwear (e.g. sandals) or clothing that may lead to a slip or a trip will not be allowed onto the course.</li> </ul>		2	4	8

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operating the course, participating on the course, carrying out inspections or carrying out a rescue.						<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Only trained and assessed instructors will be allowed to supervise the Continuous Belay Courses.</li> </ul>				
						<p><b>Course inspections and checks</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pre-use course checks are carried out by instructors to ensure the course is safe to use. Opening/closing procedure. Hazards caused by cold weather Damage to Course Policy</li> <li>Periodic site operational checks are carried out and recorded by a competent person.</li> </ul>				
						<p><b>PPE provision and checks</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Effective procurement and management system, using reputable suppliers to ensure all PPE is of the correct standard (CE marked, etc) and design and has correct information provided for use and is therefore safe and appropriate for its intended use.</li> <li>PPE must be/is assembled correctly, and correct procedures are documented.</li> <li>Each site will have a minimum of one competent person trained in PPE inspection. Instructors are trained internally in PPE checks.</li> <li>PPE will be checked prior to first use (from the manufacturer)</li> <li>PPE is visually checked prior to and after each use.</li> <li>The Site Managers ensure that instructors are trained in the correct fitting of PPE, its operation and its operating limits, inspection of the PPE and record the training.</li> <li>No smoking whilst wearing PPE</li> </ul>				

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						<p><b>Operation systems and controls of the course</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Whistles are supplied on harnesses where required to allow customers to alert instructors if there are problems.</li> <li>First aid supplies are available and there is a minimum of one First Aid qualified member of staff on duty each day.</li> <li>Emergency course evacuation procedure in place for each course.</li> </ul>					
Falling objects	3	3	9			<p><b>Retainers and Lanyards</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Course users must attach or secure all loose items (such as cameras).</li> <li>Mobile phones can be used to take photographs but should be secured to the user to prevent them falling. Cameras should be secured. Lanyards available.</li> </ul> <p><b>Trees</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All course trees visually checked during opening the course, for loose and broken branches. Deadwood should be removed.</li> </ul>	Note: Battersea is directly above a children's playground and mini golf course – therefore camera's and phones currently not permitted	A job specific short risk assessment must be undertaken	2	3	6
Impact including:  Course users swinging into something solid <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>On the course</li> <li>At the landing (e.g. resulting in lower leg injury)</li> <li>Being struck by parts of the course</li> </ul> Collision <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>On Zip Wires</li> <li>At Zip landing</li> </ul>	3	3	9			<p><b>Course design</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Design of the course must take into consideration the possibility of impact problems. Materials are finished to provide smooth, surfaces. Zip Wires and landing areas are designed and installed to arrive at an optimum landing speed.</li> <li>Landing sites are constructed to provide a soft and moveable surface of woodchip or wood peel.</li> <li>Where applicable; Zip landing sites are fenced to discourage members of the public and children wandering into them.</li> </ul> <p><b>Operating Procedures</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Landing areas are prepared (raked or dug) on a regular basis.</li> </ul>			2	3	6

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						<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Only 1 course participant is allowed on the zip wire at any one time.</li> </ul> <p><b>Provision of Information</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Safety Brief given to all course participants.</li> </ul>			
	Head impact on metal brackets at junctions	3	3	9		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Handrails constructed on crossings to eliminate the need to duck. Padding to be added to junctions to draw attention to their position and provide protection.</li> </ul>	2	3	6
	Entanglement in ropes nets, cables or chains and body parts trapped in moving parts of the course	2	3	6		<p><b>Course Design</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Activities designed to minimise the risk of entanglement or entrapment.</li> </ul> <p><b>Operating Procedures</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Safety brief</li> <li>Long hair tied up</li> </ul>	1	3	3
	Plummet (Only applicable to Alexandra Palace Coombe Abbey Temple Newsam)	3	3	9		Manned by an instructor to ensure correct: retraction of the tape (and monitor condition) attachment departure Area secured when not in use	1	3	3
Refs	HSW Act 1974, MHSW regs amend 1999, WAH regs 2005, PUWER 1998, LOLER 1998, PPE regs 1992, Workplace HSW regs 1992, H&S (Safety Signs) regs 1996, First Aid regs 1981, Occupiers Liability Act 1984, HSE 5 Steps to Risk Assessment INDG 163, HSE A Guide to Risk Assessment requirements INDG 218, EN 15567-1:2015 (Construction and safety requirements) and EN 15567-2:2015 (Operation requirements), GAD = Go Ape documents								
	<p><b>Note 1: Control Measures</b> - 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.)</p> <p><b>Note 2: Instructors Training</b> - 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 experience and the correct aptitude are selected for additional training in rope rescue techniques. Instructors are first aid trained.</p>								

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