

# Risk & Operational Assessment Activities / High Ropes (Leap of Faith, Traverse, Gladiator, High All Aboard and Seesaw)

Next Review: Dec 2026

Whitemoor Lakes	Reviewed annually by senior team as recorded below:					
Assessed by:	Name	Date 2025	Date 2026	Date 2027	Date 2028	Date 2029
Nicola Whiting	Nicola Whiting	16/12/25				
Claire Rich	Claire Rich					
	Alex Jones					
	Paul Creaser					
	Chris Browning					
	Robin Jones					

Overview: Carried out on a purpose-built structure supplied and erected by JM Adventure. A Rock-climbing instructor (RCI) & ERCA rescuer qualified Chief has overall responsibility. All other instructors hold NGB qualifications (RCI, CWI or ERCA instructor) and/or have been in-house trained using NGB recognized techniques. An examination is completed on each staff member by the Technical Advisor and/or Chief Instructor. This process is periodically checked and validated by the independent Technical Advisor. Ratio 1:12+1, when using one element, 2:12+1 if using two for more elements in a session or 3:24 (under special circumstances) or 2:16 (under exceptional circumstances with consent from the group leader)

**To be used in conjunction with Special Educational Needs, Disability and Medical conditions risk assessment.**

STEP ONE	STEP TWO	STEP THREE	STEP FOUR	STEP FIVE
List significant hazards here:	List groups of people who are at risk from the hazards you have identified:	List the Control Measures for the identified risks:	Identify any residual risk remaining after the control measures have been put in place:	Identify any benefits that may result from exposure to the perceived and residual risk for participants:
Falling from height	Instructors Guests Staff	<p>Harnesses and carabiners always checked by instructor before participant starts climbing.</p> <p><b>Gladiator, High All aboard, See-saw:</b> Participants briefed on group belaying and supervised by instructor throughout. Participants to be lowered by the instructor to reduce risk of errors.</p> <p><b>Leap of faith, Traverse:</b> Instructors to belay participants 1 at a time due to</p>	Misuse of equipment by outside parties/trespassers. Instructors' attention diverted while group belaying	Exposure to Heights has proven personal developmental benefits. The group will feel a sense of responsibility for looking after each other's safety. Handling ropes teaches responsibility and encourages involvement.

		complex nature of belaying these elements		
<b>Fall from height due to excessive slack rope / fast climbers</b>	Instructors Guests Staff	Participants are told that it is not a race, and to take their time safely to enjoy the element they are using. They can also be reminded while using the equipment if required or the instructor can tell them to stop/ slow down if they need to catch up with belaying.	Participants may become excited and forget. Instructors may not be able to keep up with the belaying, and their focus is on the belaying and not asking the participant to slow down.	
<b>Structural failure</b>	Instructors Guests Staff	Annual inspections carried out by an external qualified inspector and remedial work to installation and equipment carried out whenever required. Internal inspections carried out by qualified inspectors a minimum of every 3 months. Instructors vigilant and report any changes/ defects	Damage by weather or vandalism in between inspections	Equipment could be completely fenced off and locked or access to outside areas could be refused however this would have a negative aesthetic impact on the environment and prevent use of outside areas for recreation.
<b>Injury from falling objects</b>	Instructors Guests Staff	Participants briefed on 'below' rule and not to stand underneath participants on activity. Shoes to be fastened securely and no loose items in pockets	Some may not take items out of their pockets. Shoes may become loose when climbing.	
<b>Equipment Failure</b>	Instructors Guests Staff	All instructors trained to use suitable belay systems and set ups according to NGB standards and manufacturer's guidelines. Equipment safety checks carried out every 2 months with visual checks prior to and during every use. Condition of equipment monitored and tracked to ensure lifespan is not exceeded	Misuse of equipment by outside parties/trespassers.	

<b>Trips over tracers</b>	Instructors Guests Staff	Tracers to be coiled and hung up over/on the fence posts	Safety rules might not be adhered to. Wind may blow it off. Guests may play/ move the tracer	
<b>Tangled in ropes or devices</b>	Guests	Participants briefed to keep long hair tied back and remove or tuck in ID lanyards/ draw cords for hoodies etc and keep fingers well away from metalwork	Safety rules might not be adhered to. Misuse of equipment by outside parties/trespassers.	
<b>Misuse of equipment</b>	Instructors Staff Guests Public	All staff trained to use suitable belay device according to NGB standards. Ladders locked up when not in use Fences surround the course	Misuse of equipment deliberately by participants. Misuse of equipment by outside parties/trespassers.	
<b>Rope burns</b>	Instructors Guests Staff	In-depth, activity specific, safety talk given prior to start.	Small risk of rope burn. Misuse of equipment by outside parties/trespassers.	Handling ropes teaches responsibility and encourages involvement
<b>Unauthorized climbing on equipment</b>	Guests Staff Public	Site rules and access to activity areas explained during site tour. Ladders stored away from high ropes courses overnight, ladders and bottom bar of gladiator removed when not in use. Fences surround the course. Authorisation procedure for staff using activities outside work hours. Safety signs	Safety rules might not be adhered to. Misuse of equipment by outside parties/trespassers.	

<b>Weather (High Winds, lightening and extreme temperatures)</b>	Instructors Guests Staff	Activity cancelled or curtailed during lightning, extreme winds or if extremes of temperature impact ability to run session safely.	Negative effects of weather on individuals can never be fully removed.	Exposure to cold and inclement weather has proven positive developmental effects and teaches people about their limitations.
<b>Helmet caught on equipment on lowering</b>	Instructors Guests Staff	Participants must be facing the equipment, <b>especially on Gladiator</b> to prevent the helmet getting caught on the equipment and causing asphyxiation/ hypoxia.	Behaviour of participant or staff not following procedure	
<b>Collision with equipment/structure when lowered or slip off the ropes course</b>	Instructors Guests Staff	Safety brief to include protecting oneself and pushing off gently from equipment when been lowered as to prevent a hard collision with the elements	Swinging off/ jumping off at an awkward angle. Unexpected slip.	With the inherent risks associated with adventurous activities, bumps and bruises do happen, but we reduce risk where possible.
<b>Indecent exposure of participants &amp; discomfort from harness straps rubbing</b>	Instructors Participants other guests	Participants and group leaders briefed on arrival at centre about appropriate clothing for activities- no vest tops, crop tops or short shorts. Instructors to check prior to session start and send participants to change if necessary. Harnesses fit checked by instructor within line of sight of group leaders.	Ill- fitting clothing may move during activity, some trouser fabrics are slightly see-through when stretched which may cause participants embarrassment	