

## Activity Risk Assessment



Forestry Commission  
England

<b>Activity:</b>	<b>Outdoor Activities – Ranger-led visit: Sherwood Bushcraft – Assault Course</b>
<b>Location:</b>	Sherwood Pines Forest Park
<b>Time period covered:</b>	January 2016 - January 2017
<b>Employees covered by risk assessment:</b>	Learning rangers, Community Rangers, Shadow Rangers, Volunteers
<b>Members of public covered by risk assessment:</b>	Children, Young People, Adult participants, Group Leaders, Teachers, Adult staff & helpers

Hazard	Location	Persons exposed	Risk level	Control Measures	Implementation / Monitoring
Falling from obstacles	Assault course	Participants	Medium	<p>Clear instruction before start activity – participants told they can avoid any obstacle they aren't happy to try.</p> <p>Ensure participants understand rule that they have to climb down rather than drop off the cargo net A-frame.</p> <p>Participants warned of risk of falling from hurdles and instructed to ensure they keep a firm grip as they swing over.</p> <p>Participants warned of risk of falling from wall – participants to help each other over. Younger groups to only push dummy over wall instead of themselves.</p> <p>Ensure participants understand rule that they can not jump from one draw bridge post to other – they have to cross using bridges.</p> <p>Do not use draw bridges in icy conditions.</p>	<p>Ranger vigilance during session – participants not complying with rules removed from activity – group leader to be responsible for behaviour of group members</p> <p>Helmets checked annually and after any impacts.</p> <p>Draw bridges painted with anti-slip paint.</p>
Injury from other participants	Assault course	Participants	Medium	<p>Warn participants to leave space between each other to avoid treading on fingers or kicking each other whilst moving over / through obstacles.</p>	<p>Ranger vigilance during session – participants not complying with rules removed from activity – group leader to be responsible for behaviour of group members</p>
Entrapment in tunnels	Assault course	Participants	Low	<p>With younger groups monitor groups to ensure they pass through one at a time to allow for recovery if necessary.</p> <p>Advise adults and teenagers to make their own assessment of their ability</p>	<p>Ranger to monitor during session</p>

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Crush hazard from falling draw bridges	Assault course	Participants	Medium	Instruct and demonstrate correct use – participants to keep control of bridges with ropes, keep clear of drop zone of bridges, if feel unstable just step off away from drop-zone, wear helmets, use spotters with younger / weaker groups	Ranger vigilance during session – participants not complying with rules removed from activity – group leader to be responsible for behaviour of group members Helmets checked annually and after any impacts.
Injury from ropes on traversing wall	Assault course	Participants	Low	Warn participants of risk of flicking ends of ropes as pull through wall – keep face away from knot	Ranger vigilance during session.
Injury from assault course dummy zip-line	Assault course	Participants	Low	Instruct and demonstrate how to use equipment – care to be taken not to trap fingers in carabineer or belay system. Instruct participants that the zip line is not for people but just for the assault course dummy.	Ranger vigilance during session.
Slips, trips and falls	Assault course	Participants	Low	Warn group before starting the assault course of uneven ground and branches at eye level. Warn of trip hazard of running through tyres.	Ranger vigilance during session.
Manual handling of dummy and water container	Assault course	Participants	Low	Instruct participants to work together to move the dummy round the course and to lift the water container. Instruct participants to keep control of dummy – don't swing or allow to drop off obstacles. Don't attempt to carry dummy over draw bridges and traverse wall. With younger groups ask group leaders and assisting adults to help children lift the water container.	Ranger vigilance during session – participants not complying with rules removed from activity – group leader to be responsible for behaviour of group members
Assault course deterioration	Assault course	Participants	Low	Assault course and ground surface monitored on monthly facility check system and checked annually by civil engineer / independent body. Check for and remove overhanging branches at eye level, loose stones, roots or stumps.	Facility check monitored by Learning Manager Annual check by independent body.
Injury to unauthorised persons using assault course	Sherwood Bushcraft Assault course	Unauthorised persons on site	Low	Area fenced and locked. Assault course hidden in trees.	No previous experience of vandalism noticed.

Assessment by .....

Signed .....

Date .....

Approved by .....

Signed .....

Date .....