

### Kenelm Youth Trust Activity Risk Assessment – Nightline: Blindfolded Rope Trail

<p><b>Location:</b> Nightline, halfway down the bike track</p>	<p><b>Area / Activity assessed:</b> Nightline is a blindfolded rope trail around a natural obstacle course in a lightly wooded area of our site around a clearing.</p>
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#### Operating Notes:

- Supervision ratio is 1 instructor to maximum 16 participants, plus 1 additional adult to assist supervision (sometimes more than one extra adult depending upon the needs of a particular group).
- Instructor is trained to in-house syllabus. Refresher training as directed by coaching sessions and automatically if there has been a 3 month+ gap in leading the session. No special requirements for instructor, technical advice from Activities Manager and experienced Programme Leader.
- The course avoids areas of thorny or stinging vegetation.

**Risk – Benefit Statement:** There is a very low risk of minor injuries such as cuts, grazes and bruises, but high levels of participation in communication and teamwork development make the risk tolerable.

Hazards	Who is affected	Likelihood	Severity	Risk Control Measure	Further Risk Control Measure / Actions	Residual Risk
<b>Uneven terrain, rough ground - slips, trips and falls</b>	Visiting Children, Team Leaders, Teachers and Staff	Likely	Slight Harm	Thorough briefing by Activity Leader at beginning of session, then behaviour monitored throughout session. Activity is supervised by a minimum of 2 responsible adults. Activity Leader is First Aid trained and has first aid kit with them. All accidents and near misses are recorded and reviewed so that appropriate action to prevent re-occurrence is implemented. Participants to wear sturdy footwear and appropriate clothing (long sleeves and trousers), spare wellies and clothing in multiple sizes available from Alton Castle. Participants instructed to move at slow walking pace to avoid falling and to maintain left hand contact with rope at all times. Activity Leader and other adult(s) to 'spot' participants, when necessary, e.g. to assist stepping over an obstacle.	Weekly inspection of course and pre use check by Activity Leaders.	Low
<b>Slipping on woodland floor in wet weather causing injuries or fractures</b>	Visiting Children, Team Leaders, Teachers and Staff	Likely	Slight Harm	Appropriate footwear to be worn at all times, extras available if required.	Activity Leaders monitors weather conditions and adapts activity if necessary, by rerouting / limiting access to particular section if slippery. Extra care taken in wet weather and in extreme weather, Activity Leader to arrange an alternative activity.	Low



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<p><b>Blindfolded - walking into obstructions and/or collision with other participants</b></p>	<p>Visiting Children, Team Leaders, Teachers and Staff</p>	<p>Likely</p>	<p>Slight Harm</p>	<p>Activity supervised by a minimum of 2 responsible adults. Activity Leader positioned centrally for optimum overview of course, plus accompanying adult from visiting school or youth group at rear of activity group.</p> <p>Participants instructed to move at slow walking pace to avoid falling and the need to maintain left hand contact with rope at all times is emphasised. Opportunity to practise holding onto rope while sighted.</p> <p>Sighted leader communicates clearly upcoming hazards, process of passing on this communication practised at start of session and monitored throughout.</p> <p>One direction of travel strictly enforced to avoid collisions between young people who are appropriately spaced. Activity Leader is positioned to monitor and control participant flow. Certain individuals don't wear blindfolds if deemed appropriate by visiting staff.</p> <p>Option to complete the trail sighted and even with headtorches if dark (activity typically runs on first evening carousel though not exclusively).</p> <p>Nightline course is clearly marked and resources carefully controlled so participants only wear blindfolds in designated area. Groups are accompanied to and from nightline so Activity Leader can monitor compliance, assess potential characters within the group and guide group away from any hazardous terrain on the way to the activity.</p>	<p>Participants given choice to wear blindfold or not "challenge by choice"</p>	<p>Low</p>
<p><b>Failure of equipment including falling branches</b></p>	<p>Visiting Children, Team Leaders,</p>	<p>Likely</p>	<p>Harmful</p>	<p>Weekly inspection of course and pre-use checks. Rope, stakes and fencing posts checked for appropriate stability. Policy in place where if damaged elements are found, the activity will not</p>	<p>Arborists consulted as appropriate to check tree health. Specific threats such as Ash Dieback are</p>	<p>Low</p>

	Teachers and Staff			be used until rectified.	monitored and action taken as necessary.	
<b>Entanglement</b>	Visiting Children, Team Leaders, Teachers and Staff	Unlikely	Slight Harm	Activity Leader to ensure none-loose clothing is worn, paying particular attention to tucking away hoody cords etc. Long hair must be tied up or tied back as appropriate. Pre-use checks should identify any areas of vegetation likely to cause entanglement.		Low



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<b>Cold weather/over exposure to sun/dehydration</b>	Visiting Children, Team Leaders, Teachers and Staff	Likely	Slight Harm	Activity Leader to ensure appropriate clothing is worn or bought down to nightline in readiness. Activity Leader will monitor weather conditions. Activity Leader has a supply of drinking water.		Low
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Risk assessment conducted by:	Signature:	Date:	Approved by:	Signature:	Next scheduled review date:
Richard Moore		April 2024	Sandra Satchell		April 2025



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