

Risk assessment

Name of activity, event, and location	Blindfold Trail – construction and use Squirrels goes nuts 14 th September Tatton park campsite	Date of risk assessment	3 rd September 2024	Name of person doing this risk assessment	Mel Black
		Date of next review	2 nd September 2025		

What hazard have you identified? What are the risks from it?	Who is at risk?	How are the risks already controlled? What extra controls are needed?	What has changed that needs to be thought about and controlled?
A hazard is something that may cause harm or damage. The risk is the harm that may occur from the hazard.	For example: young people, adult volunteers, visitors	Controls are ways of making the activity safer by removing or reducing the risk. For example, you may use a different piece of equipment, or you might change the way you do the activity.	Keep checking throughout the activity in case you need to change what you're doing or even stop the activity. This is a great place to add comments which will be used as part of the review.
Construction of blindfold trail	All	Extreme care must be taken during the construction Checks must be carried out during construction for sharps at eye level and consideration must be made of age, height and behavioural traits of the participants and activity leaders. Sharps should be removed, or the route of the trail routed away from the sharp objects. Checks must also be carried out for items on the ground that could cause penetrating wounds, such as small tree stumps, hard litter, etc. Hazards must be removed Ensure thorny bushes, etc. that could cause injury are a minimum of 2m from the route.	If necessary, remove sharps using suitable tools and/or gloves
Impact in constructor	Leaders	Care must be taken whilst setting the trail; this includes the potential of tools such as mallets.	
Lack of knowledge of the safety issues of the activity	Activity leaders	All activity leaders are to be instructed to read risk assessment and must be brief on the specific hazards associated with the blindfold trail	
Ground conditions – slopes and change in level	All	Set the trail according to age and physical capabilities of the participants Avoid traversing up, down or across significant slopes for physically impaired and very young participants Beware of a distinct possibility of rope burns should a steep slope be incorporated into trail – participants to wear gloves if necessary Sudden changes in levels can cause falls – these should be avoided	
Ground conditions – slippery underfoot	All	Avoid slippery areas where possible If unavoidable ensure that there are no possibilities of sliding/falling onto hazards Escorts may be required depending on capabilities of the participants Ensure the participants are space out Leaders to be instructed as to what is required	

You can find more information in the Safety checklist for leaders and at scouts.org.uk/safety

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Trip points	All	Avoid by removing trip points when selecting route of trail – trip point can be rocks, roots, undergrowth, long grass – check during construction	
Behaviour of participants	All	There may be a benefit/need in escorting some participants due to their inability/unwillingness to follow the instructions and, in extreme circumstances, perhaps putting other participants in a position where they could injure themselves	
Fear of wearing a blindfold	All	Have the individual escorted around the course by a leader or trustworthy participant – ask the young person to close their eyes	
Stings	All	Remove from the course environs during construction using appropriate tools and gloves	
Lack of knowledge of the safety issues of the activity	Participants	The participants must be briefed prior to commencing the activity as to what hazards are present and how they should behave during the activity	
Impact whilst using the blindfold trail	Participants	All participants to be instructed to protect their face/head by checking in front of themselves with one hand/arm and to progress slowly Activity leaders to ensure that bunching up of the participants is controlled	
Safeguarding	All	Particularly when assisting putting on blindfolds or escorting participants on the trail, the activity leaders must follow Scouting Guidance as detailed in the Yellow Card	

Control Measures in Detail:

Pre-Activity Briefing:

Explain safety rules to children before starting the activity.

Demonstrate how to safely walk in a blindfold

Set clear boundaries for the activity area.

First Aid Kit available on-site

Don't forget, as part of your programme planning, you should have contingency activities in reserve just in case you can't do what was planned or you need to stop half way through. Make sure this is shared with those involved, so everyone knows how to respond. You should have risk assessed contingency activities prior to them taking place and communicated key information to those involved as with all activities.

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