

			Title of risk assessment			HUMAN HUNGRY HIPPOS			Current risk rating		LOW		
			Site / Location / address			Lees Wood Scout & Guide Activity Centre Fir Tree Hill, Chandler's Cross, Rickmansworth WD3 4LY			Date of assessment		22 Jun 2026		
/People who have contributed to the detail of this risk assessment (continue on separate sheet if necessary): All those who may be affected including, where applicable, people supported have been consulted with during the completion of this document and arrangements.						Risk assessment reference number				LW_A_023_HHH			
						www.scouts.org.uk POR 9.1 Activities							
Name		Role / Position		Signature		Name		Role / Position		Signature		Short description of the task or activity	
Bruce Scott		Assistant Warden (Risk)		BDS								Human Hungry Hippos (Operation & Maintenance) This is a Self-Led Activity	
Ian Leach		Lees Wood Activity Centre Deputy Warden		IL									
Graham Raven		Lees Wood Activity Centre Head Warden		GR									
Human Hungry Hippos, also known as "Dash 'n' Grab" is an inflatable competitive team activity for up to 8 players. Participants are attached to individual bungee cords anchored on the pillars of the inflatable. On the signal, they race to collect balls from the central play area, pulling against the bungee cord to reach the centre and retrieving as many balls as possible into their collection bag before being pulled back. The activity develops coordination, competitive spirit and teamwork. Maximum 8 users at a time. Minimum height requirement is 1m or 3ft 4in tall.													
This risk assessment covers the operation and maintenance of the equipment by Lees Wood staff. Where the hirer operates the equipment in the absence of Lees Wood staff, the hirer takes on full responsibility for safe operation and must follow the written operating guidance and safety briefing provided.													
This activity is self-run by visiting group leaders. The information below is provided to assist groups' responsible leaders in the <u>preparation of their own documented Risk Assessment</u>.													
As the Leader in charge you are responsible for the supervision of your group, including ensuring the safety of all participants. Our risk assessment cannot take in to account the competence of the supervision nor the ability, medical condition, or attitude of the participants.													
This Risk Assessment does not cover activities (e.g. games, free time, camping, contingency plans), which will each require their own. You may also need to consider any specific individual needs.													
It is expected that the factors below will be considered by the groups' responsible leader when completing their own documented Risk Assessment before and during use of the activity.													
What other Hazards arising do you need to consider? Never be afraid to stop the activity if it is becoming unsafe!													

Identify the hazards, who & what could be harmed and how					Assess the likelihood and risk				
Hazard		Who / What Could be harmed / damaged	Hazardous event	Reasonably foreseeable worse case injury	Existing controls: i.e. Safe systems of work, training, equipment instructions, support plans (be specific), other risk assessments i.e. COSHH, work at height, manual handling, etc.	Accidents, near-miss events, frequency of task/activity, gaps in existing controls, etc.	Likelihood (L) 1-5	Severity (S) 1-5	Risk Rating Score 1-25
1	Loading, handling and transportation of equipment	Customers Public Employees/Staff	Injuries caused by heavy lifting, unacceptable access	Muscular skeletal and other physical injuries	- All equipment must be handled correctly in line with manual handling. Only our staff should move the equipment. - Manual handling should be reduced to a minimum by using trolleys. - Ramps & lifts to be used where required and available. - All loads must be properly secured. - Where required, multiple persons must handle equipment. Individuals should not undertake anything that puts themselves or anyone else at risk. - Manual handling training is supplied to all staff annually. - Under no circumstances shall anyone but our staff transport equipment.	None Recorded	2	3	6
2	Installation of equipment on site	Customers Public Employees/Staff	Injury caused by debris, tripping over equipment, related injury	Cuts/abrasions, muscular skeletal and other physical injuries	- The operator must have clear access to the setup area. The setup area must be level and free from any rubbish, debris and sharp objects. - Equipment must be inspected before, during and after installation to ensure it is free from damage. - Once installed, the item should not be moved by any unauthorised persons. - Equipment should be set up away from any entrances or exits, ensuring it does not block any fire exits. - Always follow the manufacturer's instructions for setup and breakdown. - Any spare equipment must be tidied away and put in a safe place.	None Recorded	2	2	4

3	Equipment instability (movement/lifting)	Customers	Equipment moving or tipping unexpectedly	Impact injury, cuts/abrasions	- All anchor points used and checked. - Equipment secured with stakes or ballast in line with guidelines.	None Recorded	2	3	6
4	Electricity & cabling	Customers Public Employees/Staff	Injuries caused by trips, power cut-outs	Electric shock, cuts/abrasions	- The equipment requires access to a 13-amp plug socket or a 16-amp plug. The power socket ideally should be no further than 30-40m away. - All electrical components are inspected and PAT tested every 6 months. - All cabling is to be routed away from walkways. Cables crossing footpaths or vehicle access routes are to be covered with cable ramps where possible. - If the power socket is more than 40m away then a generator is advised due to risks caused by trailing cables.	None Recorded	2	2	4
5	Operation of equipment on site	Customers Public Employees/Staff	Injuries caused by overcrowding, lack of supervision, not following operating rules	Cuts/abrasions, muscular skeletal and other physical injuries	- Always follow the user limitations for the item. - Participants are to queue in front of the equipment in view of the operator, who will control the queue. - Participants are not to overcrowd the area and should keep a clear space around the item. - Spectators should be away from the equipment and not allowed to interfere in any way. - Where our staff are present, the equipment will be operated and supervised by trained personnel at all times.	None Recorded	2	2	4

					In the absence of our staff, the control, supervision, and safe operation of the equipment becomes the responsibility of the hirer. A safety briefing and written operating guidance will be provided and must be adhered to at all times.				
6	Incorrect set-up	Customers Public Employees/Staff	Injury caused by poor positioning or insufficient anchorage	Cuts/abrasions, impact injury	- Equipment to be set up by trained staff only. - Once all items are set up a walk-around of the item is conducted by the staff member. - All staff are monitored by a manager for a 6-month period before being left unsupervised. - All staff attend an in-house annual training course.	None Recorded	2	3	6
7	Weather	Customers Public Employees/Staff	Extreme weather conditions (heat, cold, wind, rain)	Sessions may have to be cancelled. Risk of injury.	- Equipment to be set up by trained person only and in line with manufacturer guidance. - Equipment should not be used outdoors in extreme weather conditions or if weather warnings are in place. - Equipment should not be used in heavy rain or extreme weather conditions such as winds or gusts above 24 mph. - All inflatables are supplied with a wind anemometer to monitor wind speeds every 30-60 minutes.	None Recorded	2	3	6

					- Inflatables should be switched off should the wind or gust speeds reach 19 mph. - All participants should vacate the equipment when the play area becomes wet and slippery. Do not use until dry. - If bad weather occurs, equipment can be set up inside providing adequate space.				
8	Injuries caused by lack of air pressure	Customers Public Employees/Staff	Inflatable deflation or collapse	Impact injury, entrapment	- The minimum air pressure inside the structural part of the inflatable should be 1kPA (100mm water gauge). - Prior to use and once set up, all inflatables are tested with a manometer to give a pressure reading. - All staff are trained in how to take a pressure reading, how to rectify issues and the severity of low pressure.	None Recorded	2	3	6
9	Overcrowding	Customers Public	Too many participants on the inflatable at once	Collisions, cuts/abrasions, muscular skeletal injuries	- Do not allow more users than recommended by the manufacturer. - Maximum 8 users at a time. - Spectators kept clear of inflatable area.	None Recorded	2	2	4

10	Electrical failure	Customers	Power loss causing inflatable to deflate during use	Impact injury, entrapment	- Equipment monitored during use. - Emergency procedures in place for safe evacuation.	None Recorded	2	2	4
11	Generator and risk of fire	Customers Public Employees/Staff	Fire or heat from generator	Burns, serious injury	- All generators are filled with fuel before delivery. - All generators must remain a minimum of 5m away from equipment. Petrol generators should be in an off-fenced area. - Under no circumstances should anyone other than our team enter the fenced-off area where the generator is. - No smoking or BBQs within 5m of the equipment. - All hires where petrol generators will be used will be set up with an earth rod and a fire extinguisher provided. - The diesel generator has a lockable door and an accessible emergency stop button. - The diesel generator is trailer mounted and should be locked using the hitch lock and wheel lock. - All spare fuel is stored in suitable marked containers in a safe location. All items must be switched off during refuelling.	None Recorded	2	2	4

12	Injury through equipment defect	Customers Public Employees/Staff	Equipment failure or integrity issues during use	Cuts/abrasions, impact injury	- All electrical equipment is inspected and PAT tested every 6 months. - All equipment has a visual inspection on set up and pack down. Any dangerous defects are reported to the operator and equipment is taken out of action until remedial works have been carried out. - All inflatables are tested annually to PIPA or EN14960. - The user limitations provided by the PIPA inspector should be followed at all times. - Our team are trained in procedures should deflation occur.	None Recorded	2	2	4
13	Slips, Trips & Falls	Customers Public Employees/Staff	Injuries caused by slippery floor, cabling or activity	Cuts/abrasions, muscular skeletal injuries	- Participants instructed to move carefully and maintain footing at all times. - Safety briefing provided prior to use.	None Recorded	2	2	4
14	Recoil from bungee cord	Customers	Participant struck by recoiling bungee cord	Bruising, cuts/abrasions, eye injury	- Participants fitted with bungee belt correctly before use. - Participants instructed on controlled movement. - Soft inflatable surface reduces impact. - Participants must not twist or turn sideways while under tension. - Participants must release safely and allow cord to retract naturally.	None Recorded	2	2	4

15	Sudden loss of balance when pulled back	Customers	Participant falls when bungee cord pulls them back	Cuts/abrasions, muscular skeletal injuries	- Participants advised to move within their ability. - Clear instructions given before use.	None Recorded	2	2	4
16	Incorrect attachment of belt/carabiner	Customers	Belt or carabiner not correctly secured before use	Serious injury if participant becomes detached during play	- Belts and carabiners checked before each use. - Only staff or briefed hirer to attach belts.	None Recorded	2	3	6
17	Collision between participants (central play area)	Customers	Participants colliding when moving to central area	Bruising, cuts/abrasions	- Maximum 8 participants (1 per station). - Participants must remain within their designated area when possible. - Controlled release system used to prevent early collisions.	None Recorded	3	2	6

18	Overstretching / strain	Customers	Participant overexerts themselves during play	Muscular skeletal injury	- Participants advised not to overexert themselves. - Activity stopped if unsafe behaviour observed.	None Recorded	2	2	4
19	Overenthusiastic / competitive behaviour	Customers	Pushing, diving or deliberate collisions between participants	Cuts/abrasions, muscular skeletal and other physical injuries	- Clear rules enforced prior to use. - Activity stopped if behaviour becomes unsafe. - This is a competitive game; however, participants must not push, dive, or deliberately collide with others.	None Recorded	2	3	6
20	Failure or snapping of bungee cord	Customers	Bungee cord fails or snaps during play	Serious impact injury from cord recoil or fall	- All cords, carabiners, and attachment points visually inspected before use and at regular intervals. - Equipment maintained in line with manufacturer guidelines. - Any signs of wear, fraying, or damage result in immediate removal from use. - Only approved equipment supplied with the inflatable to be used. - Participants positioned within designated play area to minimise risk from recoil.	None Recorded	2	3	6

21	Multi-directional movement causing falls	Customers	Participant loses footing during play	Cuts/abrasions, bruising	- Participants instructed to move carefully and within their ability. - Soft inflatable surface reduces injury risk.	None Recorded	2	2	4
22	Entanglement in cords	Customers	Participant becomes tangled in another player's bungee cord	Fall, cuts/abrasions, muscular skeletal injuries	- Participants instructed to remain within their designated play area and not cross into other players' sections. - Clear safety briefing provided prior to use. - Number of participants strictly controlled - maximum 8 for Human Hungry Hippos. - Activity should be supervised and stopped if unsafe behaviour occurs.	None Recorded	2	2	4
23	Diving head-first into central area	Customers	Participant dives or launches head-first into the centre	Head/neck injury	Participants instructed not to dive or launch head-first.	None Recorded	3	2	6

24	Collision while racing to retrieve balls	Customers	Participants collide when entering central area to collect balls	Bruising, cuts/abrasions	- Activity is competitive; participants instructed to remain aware of others when entering the central area. - Maximum 8 participants (1 per station). - No diving or launching into the centre. - Activity stopped if behaviour becomes unsafe.	None Recorded	3	2	6
25	Misuse of collection bags during competitive play	Customers	Bags used as weapons or removed during play	Bruising, trip hazard	- Participants instructed not to remove collection bags during gameplay. - Bags to be emptied/removed at the end of the game only. - Activity supervised and stopped if equipment is misused.	None Recorded	2	2	4
26	Throwing balls at other participants	Customers	Participants throw balls at each other instead of into bags	Minor injury - eye or face impact	Balls to be placed into bags only and not thrown at other participants.	None Recorded	3	2	6

Emergency Procedure

For Information Only

1. There must be a first aider and first aid kit present amongst the Activity Users, when this activity is in progress, and there must be a functioning mobile phone carried by Instructor/ Group leader.
2. If a serious injury occurs that requires help from the emergency services, the following procedure is to be followed:
 - a) The activity is to cease.
 - b) Initial triage of the casualty is to be carried out.
 - c) 999 called with a full description of location of incident/injury given.

Address: Lees Wood Scout & Guide Activity Centre, Fir Tree Hill, Chandler's Cross, Rickmansworth WD3 4LY

What3Words: **BOUNTY.HOLDS.LUNGS**

3. Participants are to be sent to an alternative site.
4. Camp Crew to be notified immediately.
5. Main gate to be manned to receive and give directions to emergency services.
6. Ensure that the equipment is not left unsupervised.
7. Warden to be informed.
8. Group to start InTouch procedures.

No	Recommendations and actions required to reduce risk	Residual risk with additional controls			Deadline for action (Date)	Action to be completed by (name)	Monitoring arrangements Active and Reactive	Action Complete (date)	Comments / additional information
		S	L	R					

To add more rows to this section, place the cursor to the left of the line above until you see a + sign and 'click'

Management ownership - I confirm that this risk assessment is suitable and sufficient, and that I will ensure the implementation, monitoring and review of the arrangements as stated.

Managers Name	Graham Raven Head Warden Lees Wood	Manager's Signature	G. Raven	Date signed	31 Jan 2025	Next review due (based on risk level)	Feb 2026
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Reviewer Name	Role	Date of Review	Reason for Review	Signature	Next Review Date
		09 Feb 2025	Annual		Feb 2026

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5 x 5 Risk Matrix								
Risk Rating Guidance	Likelihood (L)	5	5	10	15	20	25	Likelihood (L) x Severity (S) = Risk Rating (RR).
		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	2	3	4	5	
	Severity (S)							
Acceptability of Risk Guidance	High Risk: 15-25	High-risk activities should cease immediately. Further effective control measures to mitigate risks must be introduced.						
	Medium Risk: 8-12	Medium-risks are an acceptable level based on the reduced likelihood after sufficient control measures are implemented.						
	Low Risk: 1-6	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:	1. Identify the persons at risk and the significant hazards. 2. Calculate an initial RR for the activity. 3. Identify risk control measures that reduce the risks to an acceptable level. 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.							
	Note. Ideally, you should look to reduce the risks so that the task can be classified as “low-risk”.							

Likelihood (L)	Definition	Points rating
Inevitable	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	5
Highly likely	Will happen more often than not. Additional factors could precipitate an incident but it is still likely to happen without this additional factor.	4
Possible	The accident may occur if additional factors precipitate it, but it is unlikely to happen without them.	3

Severity (S)	Definition	Points rating
Very high	Causing multiple deaths and widespread destruction e.g. fire, course/building collapse.	5
High	Causing death, serious injury or permanent disability to an individual.	4
Moderate	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).	3

Unlikely	This incident or illness might occur but the probability is low and the risk minimal.	2
Remote possibility	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.	1

Slight	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.	2
Nil	Very minor injury, bruise, graze, no risk of disease.	1

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.