

Honister Via Ferrata and Zip Wire Risk Assessment

Reviewed by Michael Norbury

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Potential Risk / Hazard	Safety Measures
Fall or slip from height	<p>Group is briefed before the activity on the correct way to use their cow's tails which are attached to their sit harness. Outdoor footwear and correctly fitted helmets are worn. Instructor may decide certain members of the group will be tied in pairs with a rope whilst on a climbing section. A climb is where the group pull and stand on steel rungs / staples. The pulley for the zip wire will be fitted using the small black loop on the lanyards, and using one of the clips of the safety line. Group leader will also make sure the safety wire is clipped with the spare clip.</p> <p>Group members are informed to pull themselves across the zip wire if they don't reach the other side. Once across, the group member should unclip from the zip wire cable first and clip the next section of cable continuing the Via Ferrata. Only then can they remove themselves from the safety line.</p> <p>A chest harness may also be used on small children and large adults or anyone with a heavy rucksack.</p> <p>At no point can another member of the group who is already across the zip, remove themselves from the cable to help someone on the zip, who has not made it fully across.</p>

Finger trap between wire and karabiner	Wires are rigged in order to avoid this hazard.
Falling Rock	Correctly fitted helmet is worn at all times during the activity. Group is briefed and told to shout below to warn others of falling rocks. Group is encouraged to warn others of any unstable rocks.
Heat Exhaustion	Instructor will carry adequate supplies of water for the prevailing weather conditions and will encourage the use of sun cream where appropriate.
Hypothermia	Adequate clothing to be worn by the group. Spare fleece carried by instructor as part of first aid equipment.
Banging head in tunnels	Adequate lighting will be provided. Leader warns group when the ceiling is low.
Trodden fingers when climbing	Group is briefed before the activity regarding this potential injury. Leader will inform the group to leave at least 2 rungs between each person and warn the group that people may reverse moves when climbing. Group told to always clip ahead of themselves on vertical sections.
Minor Injuries	Leader has valid first aid qualification. First aid kit and radio carried by leader at all times.
Getting lost on the summit due to low cloud	Instructor carries compass and map and has been trained to use the correct bearing to enable safe retreat. Alternatively, reverse the cable down the mountain on the classic route.
Bad Weather (e.g: Lightening)	Instructor has access to internet at Honister for up to date weather forecast, if lightening starts as group are on the wire, leader will move quickly to safe zones. Instructor has the authority to cancel or delay the outing if he/she believes that lightening may strike.
Equipment Failure	Regular documented equipment checks and daily visual checks by instructor.