

## Risk assessment

<b>Name of activity, event, and location</b>	<b>Abseiling (High Ropes) The Canyon Stevenage District Activity Centre</b>	<b>Date of risk assessment</b>	<b>24<sup>th</sup> February 2026</b>	<b>Name of person doing this risk assessment</b>	<b>Huw Williams</b>
		<b>Date of next review</b>	<b>23<sup>rd</sup> February 2027</b>		

<b>What hazard have you identified? What are the risks from it?</b>	<b>Who is at risk?</b>	<b>How are the risks already controlled? What extra controls are needed?</b>	<b>What has changed that needs to be thought about and controlled?</b>
<p><b>A hazard</b> is something that may cause harm or damage. <b>The risk</b> is the harm that may occur from the hazard.</p>	<p>For example: young people, adult volunteers, visitors</p>	<p><b>Controls</b> 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.</p>	<p>Keep <b>checking</b> throughout the activity in case you need to change what you're doing or even <b>stop</b> the activity.</p> <p>This is a great place to add comments which will be used as part of the review.</p>
<p>Slips, Trips and Falls: Raised step into activity area Ground anchors Suspension wires Benches</p>	<p>ALL</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Full safety briefing to be given at start to include: No running. Correctly queue for your turn in Abseiling. Suitable footwear to be worn. Benches are not to be climbed on. Not to hang or swing on ropes.</li> <li>• Coats and bags to be left and stored in designated areas.</li> <li>• Instructor to include specific trip hazards into safety briefing prior to entering climbing area.</li> <li>• Always ensure climbers supervised during activity, especially in between Abseils.</li> </ul>	
<p>Falling from height</p>	<p>ALL</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Instructors to protect themselves (by clipping in) when stepping up/leaning over the edge during setup.</li> <li>• All personnel using the wall must use a correctly fitted helmet and harness.</li> <li>• Gates to remain closed and locked when activity not in use.</li> </ul>	

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Instructor or participant falling off top during operation	ALL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gates open. When gates are open then everyone to be clipped in when on the yellow hatched area.</li> </ul>	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Instructor to be clipped to the fixed personal anchor points.</li> <li>All participants to remain off yellow hatched area until instructor has checked equipment and clipped them safely to the brake line.</li> <li>Instructor to clip participants in to abseiling line once called forward.</li> <li>Instructor to carry out pre departure check to ensure all abseilers are correctly attached.</li> <li>Any observer to be clipped into the fixed personal anchor points.</li> <li>Correct use of harness and safety equipment.</li> </ul>	
Weather	ALL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assess weather conditions and if extreme or unsafe the activity to cease during electrical storms, heavy/persistent rain, high wind and snow.</li> </ul>	
Structure failure: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Structure</li> <li>Anchors</li> <li>Scaffolding tower</li> </ul>	All within activity area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Structure and anchors to be inspected prior to each session during setup process.</li> <li>Structure and anchors inspected and certified annually by qualified person.</li> <li>Scaffolding to be inspected and tagged annually (Scafftag certificate).</li> </ul>	

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<p>Equipment failure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Harness</li> <li>• Ropes</li> <li>• Carabiners</li> <li>• Helmets</li> </ul>	<p>ALL</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All PPE to be in date, used and stored as per the manufacturers guidelines.</li> <li>• All equipment to be inspected before each sessions use.</li> <li>• All equipment usage to be logged.</li> <li>• Instructor to ensure correct fitting of safety equipment on each participant prior to abseiling.</li> <li>• </li> <li>• </li> <li>• Complete inspection of all equipment to be carried out every three months and its condition recorded in the inspection logs.</li> <li>• </li> <li>• All PPE inspected three monthly by instructor team.</li> </ul>	
<p>Staircase</p>	<p>ALL</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Instructor to include in safety briefing the risks whilst ascending or descending the staircase and not to stand on the yellow hatched area on the top unless directed to do so once clipped in.</li> <li>• </li> <li>• No one to ascend prior to an instructor.</li> <li>• No one to cross over and pass another.</li> <li>• Use handrails.</li> <li>• Mind low beams.</li> <li>• Take time, no running or pushing past.</li> </ul>	
<p>Falling objects</p>	<p>All with in activity area</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Group instructor to include in safety briefing, what to avoid and not touch whilst moving around activity site.</li> <li>• </li> <li>• Participants to ensue all items removed from pockets during activity.</li> <li>• Hair/bands/cords/laces and neckers to be removed</li> <li>• Trees to be cut back to prevent overhang.</li> </ul>	

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All persons in the activity area to wear a helmet unless exemptions present for medical or religious needs.</li> </ul>	
<p>Rope entanglement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ground level</li> <li>On wall</li> </ul>	All with in activity area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Group instructor to include in safety briefing, what to avoid and not touch whilst moving around activity site especially if the climbing is running alongside the abseiling.</li> <li>How to correctly hold the rope whilst abseiling.</li> <li>Instructor to be always monitoring to be able to lock off to prevent entanglements/fingers caught/figure of eight.</li> </ul>	
Rope Burn	Instructors and participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Instructor to control the decent with use of safety rope.</li> <li>Discourage jumping/running down wall.</li> <li>The use of gloves where needed/preferred on long periods of use.</li> </ul>	
<p>Stuck climber due to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Freeze/lack of confidence</li> <li>Hair entanglement</li> <li>Clothing entanglement</li> <li>Any other entrapments</li> <li>Injury</li> <li>Inverting</li> </ul>	Climbers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Group instructor to give safety briefing at start, all hair tied back, loose clothing and neckers removed, tags/cords and laces tuck in and correctly tied.</li> <li>Group Instructor to offer encouragement and assurance.</li> <li>Instructor to be always monitoring to be able to lock off using safety line to prevent entanglement.</li> <li>First talk the abseiler through the procedure of freeing themselves if possible.</li> <li>If unable to free themselves then rescue procedure to be implemented.</li> <li>Loss of control of their decent then instructor will take control by using the safety line.</li> </ul>	

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If injury, Group Instructor to call for help from fellow instructors and use the “STOP, CALL for HELP, PLAN, RESCUE” procedure. Assess injury and if suitable to be lowered in first instance.</li> <li>• Correctly fitted harnesses/ two piece/full body if required.</li> </ul>	
Manual handling – moving equipment in / out of store whilst setting up.	Instructors / Helpers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure equipment is stored safely and appropriately.</li> <li>• Use correct manual handling guidance when lifting.</li> <li>• Carry all equipment from store to activity correctly and don't carry too much at once.</li> </ul>	
Instructor qualifications	All participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lead instructor to hold correct and in date qualifications and permits as per POR and TSA guidance.</li> <li>• Instructors to hold in date First aid qualification.</li> </ul>	
Injury to Spectators	Spectators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All spectators to stand in designated safe zones as directed.</li> </ul>	
Medical conditions – previous or current	All participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure that participants have no injuries that would be made worse by climbing.</li> </ul>	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Anyone who feels unwell must be monitored and decision made if to climb or not.</li> <li>• Stop if feeling unwell during activity.</li> </ul>	
Horseplay	All Participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Safety briefing at start.</li> <li>• Dangers of horseplay explained.</li> </ul>	

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Activity is led by the instructors but event leader maintains overall responsibility of the group. If participant needs removing then this is handed over to the event leader allowing instructors to safely continue with the activity.</li> </ul>	
<p>Incident involving first aid</p> <p>Or</p> <p>Medical emergency</p>	All present	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure suitably trained and in date First Aider present.</li> <li>First Aider to carry out primary survey.</li> <li>First aid kit available.</li> <li>Administer first aid.</li> <li>Complete correct accident/injury paperwork.</li> <li>In Emergency – 999.</li> <li>If available adult to walk up to Valley Way to meet ambulance as entrance to site can be easily missed.</li> <li>Follow the purple card guidance.</li> <li>Complete correct accident paperwork.</li> <li>Event/group leader to follow in touch procedure.</li> <li>Inform site manager of incident.</li> </ul>	