

Risk assessment

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

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?
<p>A hazard is something that may cause harm or damage. The risk is the harm that may occur from the hazard.</p>	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.
<p>Slips, Trips and Falls: Raised step into activity area Ground anchors Suspension wires Benches</p>	ALL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full safety briefing to be given at start to include: No running. Correctly queue for your turn in climbing. Suitable footwear to be worn. Benches are not to be climbed on. Not to hang or swing on ropes. • Coats and bags to be left and stored in designated areas. • Instructor to include specific trip hazards into safety briefing prior to entering climbing area. • Always ensure climbers supervised during activity, especially in between climbs. 	
Falling from height	ALL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Instructors to protect themselves (by clipping in) when stepping up/leaning over the edge during setup. • Participants should not begin climbing until the instructor in charge has checked that they are correctly attached to the appropriate belaying system. • Instructor to ensure belay ropes are always sufficiently tight. • All personnel using the wall must use a correctly fitted helmet and harness. 	

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

UKHQ template published September 2020

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participants descent to be over seen by instructor. 	
Weather	All	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assess weather conditions and if extreme or unsafe the activity to cease during electrical storms, heavy/persistent rain, high wind and snow. 	
Structure failure: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Structure Anchors Hand holds Scaffolding tower 	All within activity area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Structure to have regular inspections as per the SOP. Structure and anchors inspected and certified annually by qualified person. Holds to be checked and tightened as required. Scaffolding to be inspected and tagged annually (Scafftag certificate). 	The anchors have not currently been pull tested as by the current inspector but were done at original point of construction. These do not need to be tested for an indirect system and on speaking with the current inspector he states that these will be fine to use but having them tested will be advisable.
Equipment failure PPE: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Harness Ropes Metal work Helmets 	ALL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All PPE to be in date, used and stored as per the manufacturers guidelines. All equipment to be inspected before each sessions use. All equipment usage to be logged. Instructor to ensure correct fitting of safety equipment on each participant prior to climbing/belaying. Complete inspection of all equipment to be carried out every three months and its condition recorded in the inspection logs. All PPE inspected three monthly by instructor team. 	
Bolt Hangers – Fingers being caught	Climbers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Group instructor to fully brief climbers not to touch bolt hangers or if the climb is to involve the bolt hangers, then the correct use of them. 	

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explain the dangers of the bolt hangers and physically point them out to climbers to ensure they are aware of what they are. 	
Falling objects	All with in activity area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participants to ensure all items removed from pockets during activity, covered in full safety briefing along with laces and cords. Trees to be cut back to prevent overhang. All persons in the activity area to wear a helmet unless exemptions present for medical or religious needs. 	
Rope entanglement: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ground level On wall 	All with in activity area	<p>Group instructor to include in safety briefing, what to avoid and not touch whilst moving around activity site.</p> <p>Ensure belayers keep correct tension on ropes to avoid excess slack.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hair/bands/cords/laces and neckers to be removed. 	
Falling whilst climbing or abseiling	Participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Instructor to carry out pre departure check to ensure all climbers/abseilers are correctly attached. Correct use of harness and safety equipment. Correct belaying negates falls just jolts. 	
Belayers lowering climber/ Incorrect or misuse of Gri Gri	Belayers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Group instructor to fully brief and demonstrate correct use of equipment. Instructor to carry out pre departure check to ensure all climbers/abseilers are correctly attached. Stopper knot to be tied at appropriate height to prevent climber hitting the floor in the unlikely event of misuse or Gri Gri failure. Instructor to lower using correct belay technique, no dynamic belaying. Use of gloves if required. 	

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Rope Burn	Instructors and participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full safety briefing of correct lowering techniques. • Correct handling of ropes, not to be allowed to run free through hands when lowering the climber. 	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Instructor to manage participant belaying and limit the speed of the decent. Use of gloves if required. 	
<p>Stuck climber due to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Freeze/lack of confidence • Hair entanglement • Clothing entanglement • Any other entrapments • Injury 	Climbers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. • Group Instructor to offer confidence test early on to those needing assurance. • First talk the climber through the procedure of freeing themselves if possible. • 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. 	
Manual handling – moving equipment in / out of store whilst setting up.	Instructors / Helpers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure equipment is stored safely and appropriately. • Use correct manual handling guidance when lifting. • Carry all equipment from store to activity correctly and don't carry too much at once. 	
Instructor qualifications	All participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lead instructor to hold correct and in date qualifications and permits as per POR and TSA guidance. • Instructors to hold in date First aid qualification. 	
Injury to spectators	Spectators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All spectators to stand in designated safe zones as directed. 	
Medical conditions – previous or current	All participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that participants have no injuries that would be made worse by climbing. 	

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anyone who feels unwell must be monitored and decision made if to climb or not. • Stop if feeling unwell during activity. 	
Horseplay	All Participants	<p>Safety briefing at start.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • • Dangers of horseplay explained. • 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. 	
<p>Incident involving first aid</p> <p>Or</p> <p>Medical emergency</p>	All present	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure suitably trained and in date First Aider present. • First Aider to carry out primary survey. • First aid kit available. • Administer first aid. • Complete correct accident/injury paperwork. • In Emergency – 999. • If available adult to walk up to Valley Way to meet ambulance as entrance to site can be easily missed. • Follow the purple card guidance. • Complete correct accident paperwork. • Event/group leader to follow in touch procedure. • Inform site manager of incident. 	