

Risk assessment

Name of activity, event, and location	Gladiator Climb (High Ropes) The Canyon Stevenage District Activity Centre	Date of risk assessment	2 nd May 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?
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.
Slips, Trips and Falls: Raised step into activity area Ground anchors Suspension wires	ALL	- Full safety briefing to be given at start to include: No running. Correctly queue for your turn in activity. Suitable footwear to be worn. - Coats and bags to be left and stored in designated areas. - Instructor to include specific trip hazards into safety briefing prior to entering activity zone. - Always ensure participants supervised during activity. - To approach activity zone from site road.	
Unsupervised use / unauthorised access	Visitors and trespasser's	- Climbing ropes to be placed in storage when not in use and replaced with tracer lines. - Bottom three runs of the ladder are removable, to be locked away when not in use. - The Canyon has secure metal fencing around site which is locked when unattended.	

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Structure failure: • Wire cable • Blocks • Net/ropes/climbing poles • Anchors	All within activity area	• Structure and anchors to be visually inspected prior to each session during setup process. • Structure and anchors inspected and certified annually by qualified person.	
Equipment failure: • Harness • Ropes • Carabiners • Gri Gri • Helmets	Participants	• All equipment to be inspected before each sessions use. • 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. • Ensure all equipment is in date for its use. • All PPE inspected annually by qualified PPE inspector.	
Falling objects Head injury	All with in activity area	• Participants to ensue all items removed from pockets during activity. • Trees to be cut back to prevent overhang where possible. • All persons in the activity area to wear a helmet unless exemptions present for medical or religious needs.	
Rope entanglement	All with in activity area	• Group instructor to include in safety briefing, what to avoid and not touch whilst moving around activity zone. • Ensure belayers keep correct tension on ropes to avoid excess slack.	
Falling from activity	Participants	• Instructor to carry out pre departure check to ensure all climbers are correctly attached. • Correct use of harness and safety equipment. • Climbers to be tied in or clipped in. • Climbers to wear sit and chest harness.	
Belayers Lowering climber Incorrect or misuse of Gri Gri	Belayers	• Group instructor to fully brief and demonstrate correct use of equipment. • Instructor to carry out pre departure check to ensure all ladder climbers are correctly attached. • Belayers attached to ground anchor.	

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		- Stopper knot to be tied at appropriate height (at the first and subsequent cross beams) to prevent climber hitting the floor in the unlikely event of misuse or Gri Gri failure. - Instructor to carry out lowering.	
Rope Burn	Instructors and participants	- Full safety briefing of correct lowering techniques. - Correct handling of ropes, not to be allowed to run free through hands when lowering the climber. - Instructor to carry out lowering.	
Stuck climber due to: - Freeze/lack of confidence - Hair entanglement - Clothing entanglement - Any other entrapments - Injury	Climbers	- 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 encouragement and assurance. - First talk the climber through the procedure of freeing themselves if possible. - If injury, Group Instructor to call for help from fellow instructors/event leaders. Assess injury and if suitable to be lowered in first instance.	
Manual handling – moving equipment in / out of store whilst setting up.	Instructors / Helpers	- 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	- Lead instructor to hold correct and in date qualifications and endorsements as per POR and TSA guidance. - Instructors to hold in date First Aid Qualification.	
Injury to Spectators	Spectators	All spectators to stand in designated safe zones as directed.	
Medical conditions – previous or current	All participants	Ensure that participants have no injuries that would be made worse by climbing.	

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		• Anyone who feels unwell must be monitored and decision made if to climb or not. • Stop if feeling unwell during activity.	
Horseplay	All Participants	• Safety briefing at start. • Dangers of horseplay explained. • Leaders to monitor group. • Warnings given if required. • Removed from activity if continued.	
Incident involving first aid Or Medical emergency	All present	• 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 staff if present or email details to canyon@stevenagescouting.org.uk	