Bradley Wood Activity Centre

Climbing and Abseiling 2026 - Risk Assessment 017

Document History			
Written / Revised By	**Date**	**Notes**	**Review Date**
Jo Davies-Robertson	April 2023	/	-
Amy Parry	March 2024	Reviewed, revised to incorporate new layout including changes to SOPs	March 2025
Alice Chapman/ David Gill	March 2025	Reviewed and revised to incorporate changes to SOPs	March 2026
Alice Chapman	March 2026	Reviewed and revised to incorporate new layout, including any changes to SOPs.	March 2027

Hazard & Associated Risk	**Persons at Risk**			**Control Measures**	**Additional Precautions**	**Probability**	**Impact**	**Score**	**Risk**
	Young	Staff	Visitors						
Non-Compliance with Scout / Girlguiding POR - Causing any personal injury to user, other users and spectators	P	P	P	- All rules are in accordance with Scout POR as activity is classed as an adventurous activity - Regular consultation with County Activity Lead on any changes from POR - Instructors must hold a must hold an appropriate Scout Climbing / Abseiling permit to run climbing or abseiling. -To undertake climbing or abseiling for a Guide group they must hold a CWA/CWI or SPA, or higher. Or have undertaken and passed the Girlguiding Climbing Scheme Level 1, or higher.		1	3	3	Minor
Falling Objects – Causing head injury, other injuries or damage to personal items	P	P	p	- Procedures in place to check equipment before use and action taken if any issues are discovered - Correct footwear must be worn, secure to foot and closed toe - Participants to remove loose objects from their pockets and securely tie their shoelaces - Safety helmets to be worn at all times within the activity area	- First Aid kit must be available in the activity area -Instructor holds current Scout First Aid qualification (or higher)	3	1	3	Minor
Falls from Apparatus - Causing personal injury	P	P		- Properly fitted sit harness (or small full body) is securely connected, with a 3-way carabiner to climbing rope with a double fig-8 with a stopper knot, checked by instructor - Instructor personal belaying or closely monitoring tunnelling / bell ringing setup	- First Aid kit must be available in the activity area -Instructor holds current Scout First Aid	1	3	3	Minor

				- The instructor is in charge of the descending climber - All participants must be belayed with a GriGri - All belayers must wear a correctly fitted sit harness	qualification (or higher)				
Failure of Equipment - Leading to personal injury to user or staff - Causing abrasions, bruises, cuts, and bumped heads	P	P		- Procedures in place to check equipment before use and action taken if any issues are discovered - Annual safety inspection carried out by external company - Appropriate equipment (harnesses) for group selected by instructor - The activity area will be checked monthly for any damage. Inspections will be logged - Clear safety briefing delivered by Qualified Instructor to include correct use of equipment - Helmets worn by all participants - Mid-section of body and shoulders should be covered by clothing - All equipment should be UIAA approved and carry the relevant CE marking -All equipment must be within the manufacturer's lifetime	- First Aid kit must be available in the activity area -Instructor holds current Scout First Aid qualification (or higher)	2	2	4	Moderate
Uneven Ground / Disorderly Behaviour – Resulting in trips and slips	P	P	P	- Procedures in place to check activity area before use and action taken if any issues are discovered -Clear safety briefing delivered by Qualified Instructor to include no running in the activity area - Close supervision by the Instructors and Group Leader - Correct footwear to be worn – secure to foot and closed toe - Spectators should remain seated/away from activity elements - Persons failing to follow rules will be asked to leave the activity area -The activity area will be checked monthly for any damage and the fences integrity. Inspections will be logged.	- First Aid kit must be available in the activity area -Instructor holds current Scout First Aid qualification (or higher)	3	2	6	Moderate
Hazards Arising from the Actions	P	P				2	2	4	Moderate

of Group Members - i.e. overcrowding and disorderly behaviour.				- Clear safety briefing delivered by Qualified Instructor will set expectations for Climbing and Abseiling, how to use equipment and will make sure rules are followed - Activity to be supervised at all times by Qualified Instructors, who will make sure rules are followed - Group Leader/Teacher will provide supervision and correct ratios - Persons failing to follow rules will be asked to leave Climbing and Abseiling					
Collisions - Causing injury to participants	P	P		- Areas of risk pointed out prior to commencement - Instructors oversee activity - Helmets worn by all participants	- First Aid kit must be available in the activity area -Instructor holds current Scout First Aid qualification (or higher)	1	2	2	Minor
Participant Becoming 'Stuck' - Lack of confidence / freezing on equipment	p	p		- Clear safety briefing delivered by Qualified Instructor, so participants are aware what is to be expected of them - Supervision and support from Qualified Instructors - Rescue procedures in place		1	2	2	Minor
Loose Clothing and Jewellery - Becoming entangled or a strangulation risk	P	P		Safety Briefing includes: - Zip up jackets - Told to remove neckers, took in hoody tassels - Dangly jewellery and rings should be removed - Rescue procedures in place	- First Aid kit must be available in the activity area -Instructor holds current Scout First Aid qualification (or higher)	1	4	4	Moderate
	P	P				2	3	6	Moderate

Lack of Concentration from Belayer / Belayer Error - Resulting in falls				- Clear briefing from Qualified Instructor to include correct tunnelling / bell ringing techniques, and ensure that this is followed - Supervision from Instructing staff - Belayers (non-instructors) always “backed up” – Tunnelling / Bell Ringing should be used - Staff to take breaks or swap sessions if required					
Unauthorized Use - causing theft, vandalism or foreign objects in activity area	P	P	P	- Equipment removed after session, stored in locked building - Ropes looped and off the floor - The Qualified Instructor is responsible for counting all items in and out to ensure none are left behind. - Procedures in place to check equipment and activity area before use and action taken if any issues are discovered - The activity area will be checked monthly for any damage and the fences integrity. Inspections will be logged - Normal site security procedures in place		1	3	3	Minor