

Risk assessment

Name of activity, event, and location	Climbing and Abseiling Raywell Site General – Activities	Date of risk assessment	24/06/2025	Name of person doing this risk assessment	Mike Connor Gary McCune Harvey Lenham
		Date of next review	Not later than 23/06/2027		

What could go wrong? What hazard have you identified? What are the risks from it?	Who is at risk?	What are you going to do about it? How are the risks already controlled? What extra controls are needed? How will they be communicated to young people and adults and remain inclusive to all needs?	Review & revise What has changed that needs to be thought about and controlled?
Important Note: All Climbing and Abseiling on the Raywell Wall must be undertaken in line with the Standard Operating Procedure			
Ability of Group & Conduct. Disruption/distraction of staff & climbers.	All	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appropriate instructor to group ratio. • Adult to supervise those not taking part. • Agree expectations & conduct prior to activity. • No one to enter climbing enclosure until request by session lead • The leader in charge of the group is responsible for their behaviour. • If expectations and conduct are not followed by the group, then the instructor should suspend the session. 	
Participant unwilling to come down Participant fatigue leading to falls / injury Instructor injury attempting rescue	Participants / Instructor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climbers not to be pressurised into climbing higher than they wish, and choices should be given to participants. • Rather than attempting rescue, encourage participant to come down of their own accord. Instructor can control speed that they are lowered down to assist. 	
Weather conditions, Struck by lightening Instability Communication issues Hypo /hyperthermia Sunburn /Sunstroke/ Dehydration	All	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check weather forecast before planned event and monitor changes during event. • Sessions to be cancelled if thundering or lightening (as per operating procedure). • Use the best side of the wall to suit the weather conditions where necessary. • Instructors and group leaders to ensure participants are wearing suitable clothing for the conditions and necessary protection for the weather. • Instructors must stay hydrated and take breaks or rotate roles to stay alert 	
Falls Falling objects Injury Working at height. Staff and site safety	All	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Area around the wall to be checked for debris and obstructions prior to activity starting. • Climbing the ladder to be minimised as wall can be set up from ground. • One person on the ladder at any time. 	
Falling objects / Loose holds Injuries	All	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loose holds to be tightened if needed or removed if broken. • Participants shoes to be secure/laces tied, and pockets emptied. 	

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

UKHQ template published November 2024

Risk assessment

Failure of equipment Falls Injury	All	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Checking equipment included in training All climbing to be carried out on dynamic ropes Annual inspection carried out and recorded Equipment replacement programme in place - regular monitoring by instructors If the activity equipment has a defect during use, the activity must be stopped, until the piece of equipment is quarantined. This must be recorded appropriately. 	
Structure Failure Falls Injury	All	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The handrails on the top of the tower must not be used as an anchor point Staff to visually inspect the wall, and ground area. prior to use. All eye bolts to be checked annually by qualified inspector In the event of a failure stop activity and remove the group to a safe area. 	
Instructor competency Injury	All	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Instructor who are Scout members must operate within POR. Instructors who are not scout members must hold appropriate NGB qualification. 	
Entrapment in equipment ie, fingers, hair. Injury to fingers, Hair trapped Burns	Participant, Instructor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Safety briefing to include hair being tied back. Any loose clothing or cords to be removed, tucked in, or otherwise secured. Jumpers and jackets to be done up if worn. Climbers to avoid the top screwgate placements. Participants should be encouraged to remove watches and jewellery. Good to go' checks to be done by instructors before participant leaves the ground. Instructor to give clear instructions for safe descent. 	
Unsupervised use of equipment	Participants, Leaders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If the area is not in use, the gate must be locked to prevent unauthorised use. 	
Clients with additional abilities/pre-existing health issues	All	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Group leader must provide information about significant medical requirements and additional needs. Instructors should also ask group leaders about medical or additional requirements at the beginning of the session. Group leader is responsible for having access to essential medication i.e. inhalers. Participants with a history of injury should be warned that climbing is an adventurous and physical activity. 	
General Injury	All	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Groups are responsible for their own first aid. Groups must have someone adequately trained and have a suitable first aid kit. 	
Religious and Accessibility requirements	All	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Instructor to discuss needs and adaptations where needed Where a participant is wearing a turban, they do not need to use a helmet (this does not apply to a top knot). Other exceptions may be considered in line with the latest 'alternative arrangements' guidance issued by The Scouts. 	

Don't forget, as part of your programme planning, you should have contingency activities in reserve just in case you can't do what was planned or you need to stop halfway through. Make sure this is shared with those involved, so everyone knows how to respond. You should have risk assessed contingency activities prior to them taking place and communicated key information to those involved, as with all activities.

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

UKHQ template published November 2024