

Valley Adventure Centre – High Development Risk Assessment

Risk Assessment for: High Development	Assessor(s): Ben Girdwood	Date: 06/01/2023
--	----------------------------------	-------------------------

Overview of activity/ location/ equipment/ conditions assessed:	High Development activities involve peer belayed climbing on various elements to a height of up to 12m, such as: Peg Pole, Jacob’s Ladder, Crate Stack, Vertical Challenge. There are no more than 4 people at height at any time on the High Development areas. All of these challenges present the same hazards to a participant at height and should be treated as one and the same.
--	---

Generic or specific assessment:		Specific		
Serial	Hazard(s) identified	Persons affected	Existing Controls	Additional Controls
1	Induction/ Safety Brief	All staff and public	All staff and public must attend a safety brief prior to using the high development area.	A Safety Brief is attached
2	Slips, trips, falls and personal injury	All staff and public	Where possible, obstacles shall be removed. At the time of booking participants are informed about wearing suitable clothing and footwear for the session.	
3	Young persons and vulnerable adults	All staff and public	Ensure that young persons and vulnerable adults receive an induction talk and safety brief. It is vitally important that they not only listen to, but also fully understand, the safety issues and rules. Ensure that young persons and vulnerable adults do not enter sessions where there are older or more experienced participants. No person will be allowed to take part in activities unless they can demonstrate that they have fully understood the safety rules. Under 16’s require a ‘ Consent Form ’ signed by a parent or guardian or have a	Young persons and vulnerable adults will tend to forget the safety rules when they are excited. It is essential to repeat the rules at frequent intervals.

			parent/guardian in attendance. The minimum age for this activity is 7 years old. Occasionally 6 year olds may be permitted to use the course (i.e. same school year 7 th birthday parties) but they must be at least 120cm in height. All participants must read an Activity Disclaimer form, and the lead person must sign for their group.	
4	Injury due to problems with health and/ or fitness	All staff and public	High development activities can be physically and emotionally challenging. All participants should be fit enough to undertake the activity and operate within their personal limits. Participants are advised to seek professional assistance if in doubt about the fitness level required for the activity. Participants with current injuries or undergoing medical treatment are discouraged from participating.	
5	First aid and medical requirements	All staff and public	Supervising staff must have a valid first aid award or have received specific training as an Appointed Person. First aid kits are available in the Tower and the Cabin. An accident reporting record is kept in the Office. Participants with additional medical requirements such as asthma, inhalers, diabetes etc should make themselves known to supervising staff so that appropriate measures may be taken to ensure the availability of personal medications if required.	It may be impractical for participants to carry personal medications during activity. All personal medications should be immediately available or carried by an instructor. Instructors should be informed by participants how to administer medications in an emergency. The activity is stopped if personal medications are required.
6	Alcohol and drug misuse	All staff and public	All staff and public are particularly at risk when exposed to alcohol and/ or drug misuse. Members of the public who appear to be under the influence of alcohol and / or	This is included in the safety brief. ALCOHOL, DRUG MISUSE AND OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES DO NOT MIX.

			drugs will be asked to leave the site immediately.	
7	Fire	All staff and public	The site is 'No Smoking'. Naked flames are not allowed on-site unless as part of the 'Bushcraft' sessions at a designated fire pit. Staff are inducted and trained to respond in the event of a fire. Contact the emergency services by calling 999 or 112 from the cabin or by mobile phone. There is a mobile reception for most networks on-site.	In the event of a Fire or Emergency all users will be escorted by an instructor to the Emergency Assembly Area which is located next to the water pumping station at the main gate entrance to Creepy Valley.
8	Staff and Public entering the activity area during a session	All staff and public	Ensure any gates are closed. Ensure any safety/warning signs are in place. The activity is highly visible and it is unlikely that public will enter sessions when being run. Public entering the high development area would politely be asked to move back onto the main track.	
9	Injury due to ground and/ or weather conditions	All staff and public	All staff and public are to wear suitable and supportive footwear for use outdoors and on uneven ground. The area is inspected prior to and during activities. The activities may go ahead in most conditions. Rain and high winds above continuous Force 6 can stop the activity. Gust of Force 7 will stop the activity. Lightning storms will stop ALL activities. Participants are made aware of the implications when conditions are icy, windy or wet and asked to move slower and with more care.	A dynamic risk assessment is made before and during sessions. Participants are briefed on ground conditions as required. The activity can be adjusted as conditions dictate. The activity will be stopped if necessary. Rain showers may temporarily stop the activity. Participants are allowed to reschedule activity if the forecast is for very inclement weather or high winds.
10	Injury from	All staff and	Participants are advised to remove rings	

	inadequate personal clothing and/ or footwear	public	and jewellery. Players are advised to wear sturdy, close-toed footwear. Hair tied back and no objects in pockets.	
11	Injury from falling, static and mobile equipment	All staff and public	<p>The activity equipment is to be inspected and maintained. Individual elements are to be in good condition and inspected for splinters, wires etc.</p> <p>Participants trained in the use of Gri-Gri belay techniques and all ropes are 'tailed' by an instructor. Belayers are attached to ground anchors and lowers are made under Instructors control only.</p> <p>There should never be any slack in the ropes, as this would cause shock loading. Advanced Instructors can supervise up to 4 belayers depending on experience; Instructors up to 2 belayers and Assistant Instructors 1 belayer.</p> <p>There will normally be two instructors supervising 2 belayers each.</p> <p>The crate stack challenge requires the crates to be facing a certain direction, as displayed by the box shape marked on the platform. This means that the crates will fall in the correct direction away from participants and not present a hazard to the belayers.</p>	<p>As the testing is not current. ALL belayers MUST be attached directly to the belay system. The use of ground anchors provides additional safety but should not be solely relied upon. They also serve to keep the belayers and assistants in the correct place and make participants easier to manage.</p>
12	Issue of personal PPE equipment	All staff and public	<p>Ensure all PPE equipment is clean, fits properly and conforms to safety regulations. NEVER issue any worn or defective equipment.</p> <p>Stress the importance of 'looking after equipment'.</p> <p>Adjust helmets and harnesses to correct fit.</p>	<p>The Centre manager is responsible for all safety checks of PPE.</p>

13	Injury to head, face and eyes	All staff and public	The helmet will protect the head. Be aware of ropes and other participants that are next to you. Participants are advised to keep well clear of the area in the event of falling objects, such as Pegs or Crates.	
14	Injury through damaged or faulty equipment	All staff and public	All activity equipment is inspected and fitted by instructors. Damaged or faulty equipment is withdrawn and replaced.	The Centre manager inspects all damaged or faulty equipment for serviceability.
15	Effect on equipment due to poor storage conditions	All staff and public	High development equipment is to be stored in a cool dry environment.	
16	Misuse of equipment	All staff and public	The high development equipment is to be stored correctly and not used other than on authorised training or sessions.	

Date of review:	Serial amended:	Reviewed by:	Date of review:	Serial amended:	Reviewed by:
Aug 12	N/A	Wilkes	Jan 2022	Review	Girdwood
Apr 13	3, 11	Wilkes	Jan 2023	Review	Girdwood
Jun 13	Assessor(s)	Corbett			
Jun 14	3, 7, 9, 10, 13	Corbett			
Aug 15	Overview, 3, 5, 9, 11	Corbett			
May 16	9 & General Review	Robinson			
Sep 17	11, 12	Wade			
April 18	3, 12, 14	Colin			
Feb 19	General Review	Colin			
Jan 2020	General Review	Colin			
Jan 2021	Review	Girdwood			