

**Valley Adventure Centre – Climbing and Abseiling Risk Assessment**

<b>Risk Assessment for:</b> Climbing and Abseiling	<b>Assessor(s):</b> Max Kemp	<b>Date:</b> 02/01/2026
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<b>Overview of activity/ location/ equipment/ conditions assessed:</b>	The Climbing Tower is an artificial tower made of wood panels with screw on climbing holds up to height of 12m; this allows peer belaying and the use of Auto-belays for top and bottom rope activities. There are no more than 4 people at height at any time on the climbing tower. The tower also contains a purpose built Abseil anchor.
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Generic or specific assessment:		Specific		
Serial	Hazard(s) identified	Persons affected	Existing Controls	Additional Controls
1	General Site safety	All staff and public	Participants must attend a safety brief prior to the activity No person will be allowed to take part unless they can demonstrate that they have fully understood the safety instructions and rules for the centre and activity	See the Safety Brief
2	Slips, trips, falls and personal injury	All staff and public	Obstacles and elements are inspected prior to use. Monthly Inspections are undertaken by trained/experienced staff At the time of booking participants are informed about wearing suitable clothing and footwear for the session. To avoid injury the participants should be briefed before the activity begins. The brief should cover where hands, head and feet should be placed and where injuries may occur and how to avoid them	See the Safety Brief

3	Young persons and vulnerable adults	All staff and public	<p>Additional information is requested before the session in order for any adaptations to be made.</p> <p>Under 16's require an Acknowledgement Form signed by a parent or guardian or have a parent/guardian in attendance.</p> <p>The minimum age for the Climbing and Abseiling is 7 years old.</p>	<p>Young persons and vulnerable adults will tend to forget the safety instructions and rules when they are excited. It is essential to repeat the rules at frequent intervals.</p>
4	Health and/ or fitness	All staff and public	<p>Each participant should understand that the activity is physical and mentally challenging</p> <p>All users should be fit enough to undertake the activity and operate within their personal limits.</p> <p>Participants are advised to seek professional assistance if in doubt about the fitness level required for the activity.</p> <p>Participants with current injuries or undergoing medical treatment should consult with the Senior Staff before participating in the activity</p>	<p>See the Safety Brief</p>
5	First aid and medical requirements	All staff and public	<p>Supervising staff have received first aid training.</p> <p>In addition The Duty Manager has a valid first aid award.</p> <p>First aid kits are available in the Tower and the Office</p> <p>An accident reporting record is keep by the Centre Manager.</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>It may be impractical for participants to carry personal medications during activity.</p> <p>All personal medications should be immediately available in the 'Tower' or carried by a supervisor if requested.</p> <p>The activity may be stopped if personal medications are required.</p>

6	Alcohol and drug misuse	All staff and public	Any person who appears to be under the influence of alcohol and / or drugs will be asked to leave the site.	
7	Fire and Emergency	All staff and public	<p>The site is 'No Smoking'.</p> <p>Naked flames are not allowed on-site unless as part of the 'Bushcraft' sessions at a designated fire pit.</p> <p>Staff are inducted and trained to respond in the event of a fire.</p> <p>Contact the emergency services by calling 999 or 112 from the office or by mobile phone.</p> <p>There is a mobile reception for most networks on-site.</p>	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 the centre.
8	Panic or Injury etc.	All staff and public	<p>Every Climbing/Abseil session has a minimum 1 Rescuer with a further Rescuer on-site. Rescuers must be trained and assessed to evacuate participants and casualties from all areas of the Climbing Tower including unconscious casualties.</p> <p>There are 3 'Rescue Bags' containing the correct evacuation equipment for rescues and lowers from height.</p> <p>Participants are under supervision at all times.</p> <p>Support should initially be from the ground or Tower vocally.</p> <p>Lead Instructors are to be trained and signed off by an ERCA trainer. Assistant instructors are trained in house by the Lead Instructor or Centre Manager.</p> <p>Assistants must attend sufficient training sessions, and be assessed as competent, before assisting on any session.</p>	See Passive and Active Rescue Procedures in the Aerial Trekking & Powerfan Operating Procedures.

10	Staff and Public entering the activity area during a session	All staff and public	During the site briefing everyone is instructed on the use of helmets within the site Any adults assisting are required to wear a helmet at all times.	
11	Weather	All staff and public	All staff and public are to wear suitable footwear and clothing for the conditions Force 7 wind conditions from the south west will halt the activity. Force 8 wind conditions will halt all activities. Heavy rain will halt activities at the discretion of the duty manager. Participants should be briefed to take more care in adverse conditions.	A dynamic risk assessment is made before and during sessions. Participants are briefed on weather conditions as required. The activity can be adjusted as conditions dictate i.e. only use level 1 if windy. Activity will be stopped if necessary.
12	Inadequate personal clothing and/ or footwear	All staff and public	Participants are advised to remove rings and jewellery and are advised to wear sturdy, close-toed footwear. Hair tied back and no objects in pockets.	Spare hair bands should be kept in the Office for use by participants.
14	Equipment failure	All staff and public	Instructors should ensure all PPE equipment is clean, fits properly and conforms to safety regulations. Defective equipment should be quarantined Size and adjust harnesses and helmets to correct fit. Re-adjust equipment as necessary during activity especially after weighting the harness. All equipment should have a pre-use check and be Inspected every 3 months by a suitably qualified or experienced member of staff. Helmets are optional – But must not be used on an auto belay	
18	Falling from height	All staff and public	The climbing wall is inspected visually prior to use and undergoes a complete ‘nut and bolt’ inspection monthly.	Participants should be able to pull themselves back onto the course in the event of a slip.

			Instructors are fully trained and assessed in briefing participants, inspecting equipment and completing top to toe departure checks. If Peer belaying – ropes must have a stopper knot to avoid ‘decking out’ and ropes maintained as straight and without slack during a climb. Lowering must be done under the assistance of an instructor	

Date of review:	Serial amended:	Reviewed by:	Date of review:	Serial amended:	Reviewed by:
Aug 12	N/A	Wilkes			
Apr 13	3, 8, 9, 12, 13, 15, 16, 18	Wilkes			
Jun 13	Assessor(s)	Corbett			
Jun 14	3, 7, 9, 12, 13, 15, 16	Corbett			
April 15	Title, Overview, 1, 3, 8, 10, 11, 13, 14, 16, 18	Corbett			
May 16	11 & General Review	Robinson			
Sep 17	17, 18	Wade			
Feb 18	General Review	Wade			
April 18	3,17	Colin			
Feb 19	General Review	Colin			
Jan20	8 & General Review	Colin			
April 21	General Review	Girdwood			
Jan 22	Review	Girdwood			
Jan 23	11 & Review	Girdwood			
Jan 25	Full Overview	AD			
Jan 26	Review	MK			