

Risk assessment

Name of activity, event, and location	Climbing and Abseil Tower (Qualified instructor led) Willesley Scout Campsite (Covid 19 restrictions included)	Date of risk assessment	27 th March 2021	Name of person doing this risk assessment	Peter Bailey
		Date of next review	27 th March 2022		

What hazard have you identified? What are the risks from it?	Who is at risk?	How the risks already controlled? What extra controls are needed?	What has changed that needs to be thought about and controlled?
Unauthorised use	Visitors and trespassers	Access stair is locked off at 1.8m above ground level when not in use. Climbing wall has ply board doors shut over them and locked shut at base when not in use.	
Participants unfamiliar with tower.	Participants	Instructor to ensure a safety talk is always given at the start of each session.	
Hitting head or having something dropped on it.	Instructors and participants	Compulsory use of climbing helmets when inside roped off area around tower. Participants to wait outside roped off area until called in by instructor.	
Falling whilst climbing or abseiling	Participants	Use of ropes and safety harnesses by approved methods. Qualified instructors to ensure that when above ground level all participants must be secured in a way that they cannot fall. A safety rope should be used on all climbs and abseils.	
Fear	Participants	Trained and qualified staff Control of group Guidance and encouragement but avoid peer pressure	
Rope burn	Instructors and participants	Instructors limiting speed of descent and using appropriate gloves.	
Trapping of hair and /or clothing.	Participants	Long hair tied back, neckers taken off and any jewellery Releasable abseil set up	
Falling off access ladder on abseil.	Participants	A safety line is installed and each participant is attached to it whilst ascending, via an ascender that allows upward travel but will lock off if put under load.	

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

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Aluminium poisoning	Participants	No food to be brought into roped off area during a session and all participants told to wash hands afterwards before eating.	
Injury	Participants	No loose clothing. Neckers or jewellery. PPE to be worn	
Horseplay	Participants	Safety talk at start Enforce good behaviour. Stop session if unsafe	
Tower safety	All users	Inspected annually by qualified engineer to assess structural stability. Checked by instructor at the start of each session	
Failure of equipment	Participants	Only use CE marked equipment which is logged every time it is used. Checked by qualified instructor before and after use and any damaged items removed and replaced. Retired at period specified by manufacturer	
Instructor competence	Participants	Only scout authorised permit holders with the correct classification can run the tower and can only “teach” within the limit of their authorisation. Run in accordance with scout association rules Run in accordance with Girl guiding UK rules	
Covid 19 restrictions	Participants	Climbing – Instructors and participants should wear face coverings in accordance with current national guidance. Climbers to sanitise hands before and after climbing. Instructors to only approach participants to check harness fit and tie/untie them from climbing rope. Climbers not to hold rope when being lowered. Abseil – This is not possible until green level is reached due to abseil rope being held by each participant without being able to sanitise it.	

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