

Adventure Sunderland

Activity Risk Assessment



Outdoor Climbing

Location: Generic

Any areas used need a site specific risk assessment and management approval

Hazard	Potential harm	To Whom	Control Measures
Remote Operation	Exacerbate any injury or illness	Staff and participants	<p>Activity only to be carried out by MTA qualified member of staff having undergone activity induction and having completed a competency statement.</p> <p>Staff must take the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First aid kit • Mobile phone • Spare clothing and/or 'wearable blizzard bag' • Group shelter • Flask with a hot drink if in the expert opinion of the staff member the conditions and activity dictate
Fall from height	Personal injury/ Death	Staff and participants	<p>Participants wear climbing harness and are belayed via another participant / instructor.</p> <p>All anchors to be checked prior to use and ropes rigged as per MTLA/BMC standard practices.</p> <p>Climbs to be rigged as per MTLA/BMC standard practices and participants managed away from the top of crag</p> <p>When traversing or weaseling the staff member to identify the height the clients can climb at. Buddy / spotting system being used when unroped.</p> <p>No unroped climbing above chest height of the spotter.</p>
Snagging / falling items	Injury	Staff and participants	<p>Remove loose clothing, jewelry and all rings before climbing.</p> <p>Advise clients to empty pockets before climbing.</p> <p>Helmets to be worn at all times except when in a 'safe area' as designated during safety brief by a staff member.</p>

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Alcohol / drug abuse	Personal injury	Staff and participants	Staff to exclude anyone who is apparently under the influence of alcohol or drugs. Tests or physical proof is not required, the instructors decision is final.
Slips, trips, falls	Personal injury/ Death	Staff and participants	No personal bags/items to be placed on the floor, such items to be placed in the safe area. Participants briefed on keeping ropes tidy and any obvious trip hazards (eg tree roots).
Client error.	Personal injury/Death	Staff and participants	A staff member must be present at all times when participants are belaying each other. Staff member to brief on the dangers and correct procedure for climbing and belaying. 'Tailers' to be used to back up belayers when participants are belaying.
Strangers	Various	Staff and Participant	If any members of the public prove to be problematical and can't be calmly asked to desist, leave the area, in extremis contact police and inform centre manager.
Belayer dragged of feet whist belaying	Personal injury	Staff and participants	Instructor to identify and use ground anchors where necessary including peer belaying.
Equipment Failure	Personal injury	Staff and participants	All equipment is maintained and recorded on a scheduled basis and damaged or out of date equipment is taken out of service immediately. A visual inspection must be performed before any climbing session, by lead staff member.
Clients getting stuck on abseil.	Personal injury	Participants	Staff fully trained in range of rescue techniques to deal with emergency situations. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff to ensure the necessary equipment is carried and/or available. • Abseils are rigged to be releasable.

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Risk assessments are to be reviewed on an annual basis unless an incident occurs, which then dictates immediate review of the risk assessment.

This Review completed by: Cem Griffith

Signed: *Cem Griffith*

Date: 06/01/2025

This version checked by: Cem Griffith

Signed: *Cem Griffith*

Date: 17/01/2024

To be completed by Centre Manager:

I consider this risk assessment to be suitable to control the risks to the health and safety of both employees undertaking the tasks involved and any other person who may be affected by the activities.

Name: Mike Clapham

Signed: *Mike Clapham*

Date of next review: 06/01/2026