



# Risk assessment form (H&S)

<b>Name of assessor(s)</b>	Callum McMillan	<b>Group / Establishment:</b>	SSE Outdoors
<b>Date</b>	January 2025		

<b>What is the workplace / activity:</b>	<b>How was the assessment done?</b>	<b>Next review date:</b>
Climbing and abseiling at Uphill Quarry, a venue modified with fixed anchors from which all rigging will be fixed. <b>RCI holder only to rig and check the system.</b> Access through locked gate into Nature Reserve Grid Ref: (ST 315584)	Desktop Exercise by Senior Instructor & Activities Manager  Signed off by Tech Advisor Pete Goldsmith MIC	Jan 2026
		<b>Is the assessment 'generic' or specific to the situation?</b>

Who could be harmed, and how?	What is already being done to control the risks?	*Risk Rating Severity x Likelihood			What further action is recommended to reduce risks further?	Action by whom?	Date action due	Date action done	Residual Risk Rating Severity x Likelihood		
		S	L	S x L					S	L	S x L
<b>All participants –</b> Clothing/ hair entrapment & jewellery.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>COP guidance regarding clothing to be followed.</li> <li>Hair to be tied back and/or tucked out of the way throughout session.</li> <li>Any jewellery to be removed at start of session.</li> </ul>	2	2	4							

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<b>All participants</b> – Slips, trips, falls & minor injuries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Walking always expected.</li> <li>Group to be always kept under control.</li> <li>Briefed to take care moving on uneven ground.</li> <li>All staff to have first aid kit on session.</li> </ul>	2	2	4							
<b>All participants</b> – Extreme weather.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Check weather prior to start of session/day.</li> <li>Cease activity if lightening is within 2 miles (1 mile per second from thunder to lightening)</li> <li>Alternative activity identified if winds are high</li> </ul>	2	3	5							
<b>All participants</b> – rigging rings failure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Check last inspection (April 2023) dates.                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Instructor to check for movement</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	5	1	5							
<b>All participants</b> – being hit by falling object.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Instructor to define a safe zone.</li> <li>Helmets to be worn when outside the safe zone.</li> <li>Safety/Activity briefing for all participants</li> <li>Constant monitoring of participants</li> </ul>	2	1	2							

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encouragement/guidance provided throughout activity session.</li> <li>• School staff / additional staff to discipline</li> <li>• Briefing on rock fall and awareness of ex limestone quarry</li> <li>• Positioning when belaying and backing up</li> </ul>										
<b>All participants –</b> Poor group management/ behaviour.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Instructor to always maintain group control.</li> <li>• Group encouraged to monitor and check each other before climbing.</li> <li>• Instructor to check each participant before climbing.</li> <li>• Instructor training and competent at leading groups.</li> <li>• Session ceased if instructor deems it unsafe to continue.</li> <li>• School staff to assist with group management.</li> </ul>	5	1	5							
<b>All participants –</b> Safety equipment failure/ damage.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Only centre approved equipment to be used.</li> <li>• Manufacturers guidelines for replacement, storage of equipment to be followed.</li> <li>• Equipment checks to be carried out in line with equipment management procedure.</li> </ul>	5	1	5							

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Instructor to check equipment for signs of wear and damage each session.</li> <li>Report any damaged equipment, and place in the 'de-com bin' in core stores with corresponding defect form filled out.</li> <li>Assessed instructor to oversee the tower operation and any of its associated safety equipment.</li> <li>Helmets and Harnesses to be checked by instructor before each turn.</li> <li>Check, check systems to encourage multiple responsibility for safety checks and eliminate instructor error.</li> <li>Regular equipment inspections to be carried out and recorded.</li> <li>Working as trained in accordance with COP's</li> </ul>										
<b>All participants – Falls/ Entrapment due to instructor error.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Full safety brief given to participants demonstrating the correct positioning and stance for all roles.</li> <li>Approved systems of belaying to be used in line with NGB &amp; centres procedures.</li> <li>Instructor must be in control of lowering participants; this can include the instructor tailing the rope and allowing participants to operate the belay device, or instructor operates the belay device.</li> <li>(wheelchair specific) additional rope added for descent to support participant away from the wall to avoid entrapment.</li> </ul>	4	1	4							

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continuous observation of all participants</li> <li>Staff regularly refreshed on rescues methods for any entrapments.</li> <li>Staff who are signed off to deliver climbing sessions at Kilve Court can supervise climbing ropes if deemed competent by RCI.</li> <li>Staff signed off to Abseil on the Kilve Abseil Tower may run the abseil, however the RCI holder must always be within arm's reach to take over as necessary.</li> <li>Additional adult, teacher to monitor behaviour and remove those posing a danger in line with behaviour policy.</li> </ul>										
<b>All participants –</b> slips, trips & falls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Safety/activity brief for all participants</li> <li>Walking expected at all times</li> <li>Group to be kept under close control when moving around activity base</li> <li>Staff to be extra vigilant and make themselves safe at all times whilst travelling around the crag</li> <li>Keep away from edge unless clipped in</li> </ul>	1	2	1							

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<b>All participants – psychological scarring</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Challenge by choice model for all.</li> <li>Every participant may change their mind about having a go</li> <li>Instructor training regarding soft skills, different methods of communication and facilitation.</li> <li>Clear and age-appropriate demonstrations from the instructor to the group where needed.</li> <li>Set small targets, with an increased target if growth in confidence is observed.</li> <li>Celebrate all success.</li> </ul>	3	2	6							
<b>All participants – poor behaviour</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Instructor is trained and updated</li> <li>Safety brief for all</li> <li>Continuous monitoring of the group</li> <li>Early intervention</li> <li>Reinforcement of ground rules</li> <li>Referral to learning objectives</li> <li>Abandonment of session if lead instructor deems it unsafe to continue – poor behaviour or external factors</li> <li>Utilise visiting staff to maintain high standards of group control, remove poorly behaved participants</li> </ul>	3	2	6							

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All participants – Unknown person/ public	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If public approach at the top, make them aware of the danger. If they approach at the bottom also explain risk.</li> <li>Group to be briefed.</li> <li>If travelling to nearest rest room, no less than 3 at a time or adult to accompany.</li> </ul>	1	2	2							

Please now pass this assessment to your manager for approval

Name of assessor's manager:	Karl Watson	Date:	17/02/2025	Manager's comments	
Signature:	<i>K Watson</i>				

\* Please refer to the risk rating matrix below. Further guidance on how to calculate a risk rating from the matrix is on the [Risk Assessment policy HS 004](#).

Risk Matrix				Risk Rating					Consequence (Impact/Severity of Injury)							
				Very High (VH) 16-25		High (H) 10-12		Medium (M) 5-9		Low (L) 1-4		1. Insignificant	2. Minor	3. Moderate	4. Major	5. Catastrophic
				Likelihood Descriptor		Consequence Descriptor		• Near Miss. • No treatment required.	• First-Aid treatment (e.g. minor cuts, bruises, bumps)	• Medical treatment • Lost time of >3 working days.	• Serious injury/ medical treatment. • Hospitalisation. • Lost time (RIDDOR)	• Loss of life. • Permanent disability.				
Likelihood (Probability/Chance)	Very likely. Event is expected to occur in most circumstances: More than 95% chance of occurring.		5.	Almost Certain	M-5	H-10	VH-15	VH-20	VH-25							
	There is a strong possibility the event will occur. Between 65% - 95% chance of occurring.		4.	Likely	L-4	M-8	H-12	VH-16	VH-20							
	The event has occurred before or could again. Between 35% - 65% chance of occurring.		3.	Possible	L-3	M-6	M-9	H-12	VH-15							
	The event is not expected to occur but could under specific circumstances. Between 5% - 35% chance of occurring.		2.	Unlikely	L-2	L-4	M-6	M-8	H-10							
	The event has not occurred before, but it may occur in exceptional circumstances. < 5% chance of occurring.		1.	Rare	L-1	L-2	L-3	L-4	M-5							