



Risk assessment form (H&S)

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|-----------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------|--|
| Name of assessor(s) | Lawrence Wilson | Group / Establishment: | SSE Outdoors Charterhouse Centre |
| Date Review Date | 18/2/26 Annually | | |

| Venue Description | How was the assessment done? | Mobile Phone Signal |
|---|---|--|
| | | Variable signal depending on network |
| Caving – Goatchurch Cavern, Aveline's Hole, Sidcot Swallet, Pierre's Pot (Burrington Combe) Goatchurch Cave ST 477 583 Nearest road – Burrington Combe B3134 | Completed by the Senior Instructor in consultation with other staff and our Technical Advisor (Marcus Taylor) | Nearest Landline |
| | | Bike shop or house at bottom of The Link |

| Person Affected | Hazard(s) Identified | Existing Controls? | Risk Rating * Severity x Likelihood | | | What further action is recommended? | Action by whom? | Date action due | Date action done |
|---|----------------------|--|--|---|-------|-------------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|
| | | | S | L | S x L | | | | |
| Participants and visiting staff Instructor | Slips and trips | <p>Local Cave Leader or site specific qualified Instructors used.</p> <p>Safety/activity briefing for all participants encouraging them to sit down rather than fall down.</p> <p>Participants to wear suitable footwear</p> <p>Move at a steady pace so no one feels like they have to rush.</p> <p>Vigilance of instructors in watching out for hazards or hazardous behaviour e.g. people pushing/ shoving to get to the front.</p> <p>Utilise visiting staff to maintain high standards of group control</p> | 2 | 3 | 6 | | | | |

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| | | | S | L | S x L | | | | |
| Participants and visiting staff Instructor | Falling | <p>Local Cave Leader or site specific qualified Instructors used.</p> <p>Safety/activity briefing for all participants informing them about vertical drops and how you plan to protect them, given at appropriate times.</p> <p>Potential hazards pointed out in advance and group kept away until asked to approach.</p> <p>On short drops, the instructor should spot participants for example the Giants Staircase.</p> <p>For longer drops like the Tradesman's a rope should be used and the instructor to adopt a position of greatest use (POGU).</p> <p>Demonstrations given where necessary on how to complete climbs/ descents</p> <p>Vigilance of instructors in watching out for hazards or hazardous behaviour</p> <p>Participants to wear suitable footwear</p> <p>Utilise visiting staff to maintain high standards of group control</p> | 3 | 2 | 6 | | | | |

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| Participants and visiting staff | Individual/s getting lost/ separated from the group | <p>Local Cave Leader or site specific instructor running the session</p> <p>Safety/activity briefing for all participants, and constant monitoring throughout the session.</p> <p>Group given clear instructions on where to go/ stop. Not to wander off.</p> <p>Head count after challenges.</p> <p>Keep a teacher/ mentor at the back of the group.</p> <p>Lighting fit for purpose</p> <p>If you meet another group, keep an eye on yours to ensure they don't go off with another group.</p> | 3 | 1 | 3 | | | | |
| Participants and visiting staff Instructor | Falling rocks | <p>Brief the group on the dangers of kicking/ throwing rocks.</p> <p>Helmets to be worn at all times.</p> <p>Brief the group to shout "below" if they dislodge any loose rock and inform them not to look up if they hear that shouted.</p> | 2 | 3 | 6 | | | | |
| Participants and visiting staff | Exhaustion | <p>Close monitoring of the group for signs of exhaustion. Cut the trip short if necessary.</p> <p>Encourage team work and slow the trip down if needed.</p> | 3 | 1 | 3 | | | | |

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| | | | S | L | S x L | | | | |
| Participants and visiting staff Instructor | Weather - participants inappropriately dressed for journey to and from the cave | Activity run in accordance with standard operating procedures (SOPs) and activity notes Instructor to check weather before the activity and make sure everyone is suitably dressed Goatchurch is unaffected by the weather | 2 | 1 | 2 | | | | |
| Participants and visiting staff Instructor | Biohazards (animal/human waste, mud, rubbish etc) | Instructor vigilance Group to wash hands on return to the centre | 2 | 2 | 4 | | | | |
| Participants and visiting staff Instructor | Road traffic accident whilst crossing and walking along the road | Activity run in accordance with standard operating procedures (SOPs) and activity notes Safety briefing for all participants, Vigilance and good group management when crossing and walking along the road to/from the cave, making the participants aware of your expectations Utilise visiting staff to maintain high standards of group control Use the paths beside the road leading up to the caves Position of Greatest Use (POGU) | 5 | 1 | 5 | | | | |

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| | | | S | L | S x L | | | | |
| Participants and visiting staff Instructor | Injury whilst walking to and from the cave | <p>Safety/Activity briefing for all participants, and constant monitoring throughout the session</p> <p>Point out hazards for example wet slippery rocks and assist if needed</p> <p>Appropriate footwear worn</p> <p>Position Of Greatest Use (POGU)</p> | 3 | 2 | 6 | | | | |
| Participants and visiting staff Instructor | Getting stuck in a squeeze | <p>Safety/activity briefing for all participants, and monitoring during challenges/ squeezes</p> <p>Instruction of appropriate movement techniques to negotiate chosen routes</p> <p>Local Cave Leader or site specific instructor to lead the session and make decisions based on their knowledge/ experience.</p> <p>Assessment of suitability of participants, based on size and ability.</p> <p>Appropriate selection of passages and “tight squeeze” challenges suitable to participants</p> <p>Warn participants not to force their way in to a squeeze.</p> <p>Position yourself so you can ensure only those suitable are attempting the challenge/ squeeze</p> <p>If unsure about a person’s size to fit through, don’t let them try it</p> | 4 | 2 | 8 | | | | |

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| | | | S | L | S x L | | | | |
| Participants and visiting staff Instructor Other users | Other groups | Avoid other groups and take alternative route if possible Communicate with other group leader/s and try to work on a plan to avoid any potential problems | 1 | 2 | 2 | | | | |
| Participants and visiting staff | Claustrophobic reaction to cave | Encourage and support individual and help them back to the surface. | 3 | 2 | 6 | | | | |
| Participants and visiting staff | Medical emergency | Brief the group to look after each other and inform staff if there are signs that people are feeling unwell. Medication to be taken with the group. Clarification sought on whether staff or individuals are carrying it. Discussion with staff or individuals about pre-existing medical conditions and warning signs to look out for and what to do. | 5 | 1 | 5 | | | | |

Assessor's Signature – Where a review takes place resulting in no changes to the assessment and risk rating this form can be re-signed, dated, any relevant comments made and a note added for the next review date.

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|-------|-----------------|------|---------|----------|--|
| Print | Lawrence Wilson | Date | 18/2/26 | Comments | |
| Sign | Lawrence Wilson | | | | |