

Bramhope Scout Campsite and Activity Centre

Climbing Tower Risk Assessment

HAZARD	WHO MIGHT BE HARMED	RISK LEVEL	CONTROL OF RISK
Head injury from bumping or falling equipment	All involved	Moderate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any person entering designated area must wear appropriate climbing helmet. • These must be correctly adjusted to ensure correct fit. • Persons not involved in the activity to stand well clear, near the fence. • All climbers to empty pockets of objects that may cause harm, e.g. mobile phones.
Discipline Young people messing about	All involved	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Group leaders to attend to help maintain discipline • Any persistent indiscipline may result in young person being excluded or session terminated.
Failure of equipment	All involved	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All equipment to be checked before use • All equipment to be correctly stored and regularly checked. • All equipment to be used in accordance with manufactures recommendations. • Any damaged equipment to be immediately removed from service.
Falls from height	All involved	Moderate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whenever climbing above 1.5m a properly fitting and adjusted harness must be worn and clipped onto an appropriate belay system. • Harnesses must be checked and approved by an instructor before use. They must not subsequently be adjusted without instructors' permission.
Falling from Internal Ladders	All involved	Moderate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Only persons needing to access top of tower to use ladders • If ladders need to be used for unavoidable descent by young people they must be belayed down from the top.
Falling from top of tower while rigging	All involved	Moderate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure secured to tower using appropriate system • Only competent persons to be at top of tower during rigging
Falls from height while climbing	All involved	Moderate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supervision by competent persons who have appropriate Scouts permits or NGB qualification. • Only permit holders allowed to "lower" climbers.
Falls whilst traversing	All involved	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Close supervision by competent person • Use of "spotters" if deemed necessary • Participants to wear helmets • No traversing above "hazard line" • Keep area below traversing area clear of obstacles

Failure of top anchor	All involved	Moderate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anchors to be visually checked prior to use • Ensure rope is passed through “back up” anchor • Anchors to be professionally checked annually.
Fingers being caught in anchor chains	Climber	Moderate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climbers warned to keep fingers away from chains when climbing. • Leaders to watch carefully as climber approaches top of climb.
Abseiler gets caught in abseil rope	Abseiler	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure activity being led by authorised adult • Ensure rope is set up to be “releasable”.
Abseiler “lets go”	All involved	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that safety rope is being used.
Being struck by objects falling from height	All involved	Moderate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure supervision by competent person. • Helmets must be worn in designated area • All persons not directly involved in the activity to stay well back near fence
Adverse weather	All involved	Moderate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Permit holder to decide if weather is appropriate • Tower not to be used in high winds or thunderstorms predicted
Skin irritation	Anyone wearing helmet	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Helmets must only be cleaned according to manufacturer’s recommendations which is soap and water • Detergents or sanitising fluid must not be used.
Covid-19 prevention	Anyone entering climbing compound	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Everyone to use the hand sanitising station before entering the climbing area and not to attend if they have Covid-19 symptoms

Risk assessment prepared by:	Andrew Dodsworth Climbing tower lead John Smallwood Deputy County Commissioner	Date: 25th May 2022	Date next revision due: 24th May 2023
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