

Activity Area:	Outdoor Climbing Tower
Minimum Staffing Level	1 Instructor per group
Staff/Pupil Ratio	45ft: 1:12 25ft: 1:16 25ft Abseil: 2:16
Staff Qualifications	In-house Training MIA assessed
Maximum Number of Participants	25ft: 20 45ft: 12
Role of Accompanying Adult:	Supervision of group at tower base

Risk Matrix	Likelihood			
Consequences	Very Likely	Likely	Unlikely	Highly Unlikely
Fatality	High -16-	High -15-	High -14-	Medium -13-
Major Injuries	High -12-	High -11-	Medium -10-	Medium -9-
Minor Injuries	High -8-	Medium -7-	Medium -6-	Low -5-
Negligible Injuries	Medium -4-	Medium -3-	Low -2-	Low -1-

Hazard	Persons at risk	Prior Risk	Control Measures	New Risk Factor
Fall from height	Participants, Instructors	High 16	Staff and participants clipped to safety line at start of climb. Correctly fitted helmets and harnesses worn by all participants and staff. Participant descent controlled by trained instructor via safety rope. Tower secured against unsupervised access.	Medium 13
Equipment failure	Participants, Instructors	High 16	All equipment checked by instructors prior to use. Daily and weekly equipment checks carried out.	Medium 13
Objects falling from structure	Participants, Instructors, Observers	High 12	Correctly fitted helmets must be worn within designated area. Base of tower and immediate area out of bounds to casual spectators	Medium 9
Contact with wall during ascent or descent	Participants, Instructors	High 8	Correctly fitted helmets worn while climbing/abseiling. Correct technique described by trained instructors. Suitable clothing should be worn (including footwear) Long hair and loose clothing or items of jewellery safely tucked away.	Medium 6
Trapping of fingers in belay equipment	Participants, Instructors	High 8	Instructors trained in correct use of belay equipment. Belay equipment checked for defects prior to use.	Medium 6
Finger entrapment in lead climb loops	Participants	High 12	Climbers advised in safety brief not to use loops and climbing holds.	Medium 9
Ascending/descending access ladders / steps	Participants, Instructors	High 12	Correctly fitted helmets worn by all staff and participants. Instruction provided on safe ascent and descent of ladder / step sections. If participants use ladder they will descend under rope control at all times.	Medium 10
Structural failure	Participants, Instructors, Observers	High 16	Climbing structures subject to inspection by an independent engineer every 5 years.	Medium 13
Weather	All	Medium 4	Instructor to monitor weather & suspend or cancel session when conditions cause safety to be affected. Instructor to check that all participants have suitable clothing prior to commencing the activity. Instructors must always wear appropriate clothing to run the activity safely. Appropriate clothing, time out of sun, fluid breaks.	Low 1
Incorrect abseil technique	Participants	High 8	Instructor to brief all participants before abseiling the wall. Instructor observers participants abseiling to make sure they are holding the rope correctly Instructor holding safety line restricts participants abseil speed to stop rope burns and check correct technique	Medium 6
Bell ringing	Participants	High 8	Instructors trained how to train and observe participants bell ringing with the correct technique No less than three participants are used to control the rope when bell ringing each with their own	Medium 6

Out Door Climbing Tower
06/03/2026 Date of next review 06/03/2027 RA Creator CW

			<p>specific task</p> <p>Instructor/leader to hold tail end of the rope</p> <p>Instructor must refer to each participant by name to make sure they understand that the instructions being given are for them and check that they understand before the action takes place.</p> <p>Instructor to constantly pay attention to the rope as well as the climber.</p>	
Unauthorised Access	All	High 16	<p>Group Leader briefing, signage & controlled access.</p> <p>Area locked and secure when not in use</p>	Medium 13
Instructor/contractor access at top of tower.	Instructor Contractor	High 16	<p>Safety line to be in place at all times with access equipment to be used at all times.</p> <p>Contractors to be always supervised by senior staff.</p>	Medium 13
Hair, jewellery or clothing trapped in equipment	Participants, Instructors,	High 12	<p>Before climbing participants are asked to remove jewellery (especially rings), tuck away hair, loose clothing and draw cords etc.</p>	Medium 10
Inversion/fall	Participants, Instructors,	High 16	<p>Instructors will provide clear instruction to avoid inversion or falls Activity.</p> <p>Instructors to ensure correct use and fitting of equipment.</p> <p>Instructors to use an improvised chest harness where needed (i.e., oversized, or undersized participants).</p>	Medium 13
Falls whilst low level Traversing.	Participants, Instructors,	High 12	<p>Instructors to brief the participants in the correct techniques for Traversing.</p> <p>Participants not to go above the second panel.</p>	Medium 10
Seating area.	Instructors Participants Observers	High 8	<p>Seating area checked before and after use for any damage.</p> <p>Care must be taken to spot any wasp nests in the summer period.</p>	Medium 6

Forest Est. 1938