

BIBBYS FARM LIMITED  
BIBBYS FARM SCOUT CAMPSITE AND ACTIVITY CENTRE

Issue 3 (March 2025) Pete Sturgess & Ryan Bibby

Ref. No. SN.6/CCT1.1

# RISK ASSESSMENT

## Climbing Tower (Sheet 1 of 4)

**Note: There are two methods of operating the climbing tower as detailed below, control measures apply to both methods unless specifically stated**

- **Auto belay - Sessions run using auto belays instead of traditional belaying**
- **Traditional roped – Sessions run using traditional climbing ropes and belaying devices**

Hazard	At Risk	Control Measures	Severity	Likelihood	Rating	Further Action
Transfer of infectious diseases such as COVID-19. Norovirus etc.	Everyone	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PPE such as masks and visors available upon request.</li> <li>• Cleaning kits containing sanitising spray, paper wipes and hand gel available upon request.</li> <li>• Usage of above is voluntary unless infection rates are high when our procedures will require their use.</li> </ul>	3	Low – 2 High - 3	6 9	Adequately Controlled
Fall from height	All	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sessions to be run following operating procedures by a qualified climbing instructor or somebody who has been assessed as competent to run the activity.</li> <li>• Instructor to check for correct fitting of all harnesses at the start of the session.</li> </ul> <p><b>Auto Belay</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Climber attached to auto belay using the provided auto locking carabiner and Petzl Swivel.</li> </ul> <p><b>Traditional Roped</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Instructors to tail rope for inexperienced belayers and show the correct belaying technique.</li> <li>• Instructor to remain in control of the dead rope when the climber is being lowered.</li> <li>• Belayers who are lighter than the climber are to be clipped to a weight bag.</li> <li>• Climber attached to the rope using a double figure of eight with stopper knot – a triple action carabiner can be used between the double figure of eight and the climber’s harness.</li> </ul>	3	1	3	Adequately Controlled

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# RISK ASSESSMENT



## Climbing Tower (Sheet 2 of 4)

Hazard	At Risk	Control Measures	Severity	Likelihood	Rating	Further Action
Structure failure	Participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Any areas of concern are to be reported to Centre staff.</li> <li>Annual inspection undertaken of the climbing tower and structure by competent person.</li> <li>Only 1 person to use each anchor point at any one time.</li> <li>Quarterly recorded checks carried out by Centre staff, any items of concern which can't be rectified in house are seen to by an external company.</li> </ul>	4	1	4	Adequately controlled
Entrapment / strangulation	Participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Loose jewelry to be removed, long hair tied back and loose clothing to be secured.</li> <li>Neckerchiefs to be removed.</li> </ul> <p><b>Auto belay</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Helmets must not be worn when auto belays are being used</li> </ul> <p><b>Traditional Roped</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Figure of eight and stopper knot tied neatly and close together to minimize a false loop which could become an entrapment hazard</li> </ul>	1	4	4	Adequately controlled
Poor weather	Participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>At the first sign of thunder and lightning, continue until the flash to bang is no less than 30 secs, at which point the activity stops immediately and all involved in the session are moved to a safe location away from the tower. The activity may continue 30 minutes after thunder is last heard.</li> <li>Ensure the group is wearing suitable clothing at the start of the session for the weather e.g. waterproofs / warm clothes.</li> <li>Sessions to be cancelled if winds exceed the manufacture's guidelines of gale force 5 (30-39kph).</li> <li>Instructor to consider weather conditions, checking forecast if required and has the final call on whether conditions are safe enough.</li> </ul>	1	4	4	Adequately controlled

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# RISK ASSESSMENT



## Climbing Tower (Sheet 3 of 4)

Hazard	At Risk	Control Measures	Severity	Likelihood	Rating	Further Action
Unauthorized use outside of sessions	All	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Harnesses and ropes to be returned to storage at end of a session.</li> <li>Base of tower covered with tarpaulin or fencing when left unattended for breaks.</li> <li>Tower lowered when not in use for long periods of time (e.g. overnight).</li> <li>Signs displayed in climbing tower area telling people not to climb without an instructor present.</li> <li>Centre staff will challenge anyone messing around in the climbing tower area outside of sessions.</li> </ul>	3	2	6	Adequately controlled
Equipment / PPE failure	All	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Instructors to perform a pre use check on all climbing equipment being used.</li> <li>Damaged or suspect equipment to be immediately quarantined in the quarantine box to stop it being mixed up with good equipment.</li> <li>Equipment not to be taken from the quarantine box except for repair or destruction.</li> <li>All equipment within manufacturer's recommended lifespan.</li> <li>All PPE inspected by a competent person at least every 6 months.</li> </ul> <p><b>Auto belay</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Auto belay devices serviced annually by the manufacturer.</li> <li>Maximum user weight limit of 125kg to be followed.</li> <li>Auto belays checked by Centre staff monthly when in use following manufacture's guidelines.</li> </ul>	4	1	4	Adequately controlled
Poor group behavior	All	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A leader must stay with the group to manage the behavior of people not currently involved in climbing.</li> <li>Safety talk given at start of session about appropriate behavior.</li> <li>Instructor to cancel session if group's behavior causes a safety concern.</li> </ul>	2	2	4	Adequately controlled

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# RISK ASSESSMENT



## Climbing Tower (Sheet 4 of 4)

Hazard	At Risk	Control Measures	Severity	Likelihood	Rating	Further Action
Falling objects	All	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Participants instructed to empty pockets before climbing</li> </ul>	2	2	4	Adequately controlled
Slips, trips and falls	All	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Instructor to check session area for obstacles before session starts and tidy up where needed.</li> <li>Spare equipment left out of the way of the session.</li> <li>Centre staff to keep area clear of leaves during autumn as part of normal leaf clearing duties</li> </ul>	2	2	4	Adequately controlled
Instructor error	Participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Instructors to follow training and operating procedures at all times.</li> <li>Instructors to be given enough breaks throughout the day to avoid fatigue and concentration lapses.</li> <li>Newly qualified instructors are paired up with more experienced instructors for their first few sessions</li> </ul>	4	1	4	Adequately controlled
Lack of confidence / freezing in place	Participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Clear instructions given by instructor on what the participant should do.</li> <li>Challenge by choice followed.</li> <li>Rescue procedures in place and instructors trained on what to do</li> </ul>	2	3	6	Adequately controlled