

**THE BARNSTONDALE CENTRE – ACTIVITY RISK ASSESSMENT – THE TOWER (CLIMBING & ABSEILING)**

<b>Assessment Ref No:</b>			<b>ACT006</b>		<b>Area or Activity Assessed:</b>	<b>The Tower (climbing &amp; abseiling)</b>
<b>Assessment Date:</b>			24 Sep 25			
<b>Person who may be affected by this activity</b>			Staff, Visitors, Contractors, Service Users and anyone else who may physically come into contact with the business			
<b>Ser</b>	<b>What are the hazards?</b>	<b>Who might be harmed and how?</b>	<b>Pre-Control Risk Rating (Likelihood x Severity)</b>	<b>What are we doing/Controls required?</b>	<b>Action needed</b>	<b>Post-Control Risk Rating (Likelihood X Severity)</b>
1	Unauthorised access	All Un- authorised users	2x3=6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• All entry points secured when activity is not supervised.</li><li>• All climbing equipment removed overnight and stored securely.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Regularly remind activity instructors on the importance of ensuring area is secure</li><li>• At changeover of groups area never to be left unsupervised or unsecured</li></ul>	2x1 = 2
2	Slips, Trips and Falls	All users and instructors	3x3=9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Instructors trained in basic first aid.</li><li>• Area regularly maintained to restrict undergrowth and remove trip hazards.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Safety brief to include ‘no running in the area</li><li>• Teacher/Leader/Instructor from the participant group to be with the group at all times for crowd control and discipline.</li></ul>	2x1 = 2
3	Tower Internal Staircase	Any one in activity area or surrounding areas	3x3=9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Activity area secure.</li><li>• Access to tower restricted to trained staff for access.</li><li>• Daily check of tower for loose fittings on all accessible areas of the tower.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Instructors to conduct visual ‘common sense’ surveys before during and after accessing tower and running sessions.</li></ul>	2x1 = 2

					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Looking for obvious faults/maintenance issues.</li> <li>Regular documented checks by internal/external competent personnel.</li> </ul>	
4	Equipment Failure	Anyone climbing, belaying or anyone in activity area	3x3=9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Visual check prior to every use throughout the day by session instructors.</li> <li>Periodical checks by competent person with documentation complete and held on file.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Equipment retired and disposed of at the end of its manufacturer stated life or when wear and tear makes it unsafe, as per manufacture guidelines. A designated quarantine bin is to be used for disposal.</li> <li>Log kept all equipment in use and in reserve, identified by serial number.</li> </ul>	2x1 = 2
5	Falls from height	Climbers	2x4=8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All participants must wear helmets and harnesses which are properly fitted and checked by an instructor.</li> <li>Several manual and visual checks of equipment must be made with the final check occurring just before climb takes place.</li> <li>Participants tied into appropriate rope and belay system.</li> <li>Anchor points checked annually by external competent company.</li> <li>Belay system and anchor points set up.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Instructor to manually &amp; visually check rope and belay system for each climb.</li> <li>Instructor to carry out a manual pre-departure check' immediately before each person climbs or abseils.</li> </ul>	2x1 = 2

6	Foul weather	Anyone in activity area or near tower	3x1=3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Check weather conditions ahead of Sessions.</li> <li>• Visual check of activity area in conditions such as snow or wind to determine whether or not to proceed</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Management and Session instructor to make the call as to whether or not a session runs.</li> <li>• Instructors have authority to suspend sessions.</li> </ul>	2x1 = 2
7	Incorrect use of equipment – Including PPE and belay devices	All climbing, belaying or in contact with rope, as well as anyone close to those people.	3x4=12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Anyone belaying must be appropriately trained and supervised by a competent person qualified to do so.</li> <li>• All climbers have their PPE and knots checked by the instructor before climbing.</li> <li>• Anyone belaying must be trained in how to do so safely and qualified or supervised in how to do so.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Activity leader to provide appropriate supervision for the group.</li> </ul>	2x1 = 2
8	Participant Lack of Knowledge	Climbers and Belayers	3x3=9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Safety Talk carried out by instructor before starting and practical elements.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lead instructor to take ultimate responsibility for safety during the session.</li> <li>• Instructor to determine competency of the group at the start of the session.</li> <li>• Instructor to explicitly highlight safe areas and danger areas, as well as, when and where safety equipment (helmets) must be worn.</li> <li>• No Person to climb until their equipment has been checked and they are</li> </ul>	2x1 = 2

					connected into the safety rope.	
9	PPE snagging	Helmet or gear loop getting snagged whilst lowering a climber or abseiler	3x3=9	<p>Before a potential Snag</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Stay in position: Stay close to the wall to minimize the distance the climber could fall and maintain better control of the rope.</li> <li>2. Take in slack: Continuously take in slack as the climber moves up to prevent excessive slack from accumulating.</li> <li>3. Communicate: Use clear commands and ensure the climber is ready before starting.</li> <li>4. Communicate: Use clear commands and ensure the climber is ready before starting.</li> <li>5. Ensure Climber descends correctly and is not allowed to jump excessively.</li> </ol>	<p>If a Snag Occurs</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Identify what piece of equipment has snagged.</li> <li>2. Ask climber to turn around and take a foot hold, step up and return to correct position.</li> <li>3. If not able to take a foot hold, instructor takes in rope using body weight to lift climber free. Once free, belay down as normal.</li> <li>4. Communicate with staff: If necessary, inform staff about the situation.</li> </ol>	2x1=2

## Risk Rating

Risk Matrix								
Risk rating guidance	Likelihood (L)	5	5	10	15	20	25	Likelihood (L) x Severity (S) = Risk Rating (RR).
		4	4	8	12	16	20	
		3	3	6	9	12	15	
		2	2	4	6	8	10	
		1	1	2	3	4	5	
			1	2	3	4	5	
Severity (S)								
Acceptability of risk guidance	High-risk: 15 – 25		High-risk activities should cease immediately. Further effective control measures to mitigate risks must be introduced.					
	Medium-risk: 8 – 12		Medium-risks are an acceptable level based on the reduced likelihood after sufficient control measures are implemented.					
	Low-risk: 1-6		Low-risks are largely acceptable. Where it is reasonable to do so, efforts should be made to reduce risks further.					
Guidance. When completing a risk assessment, you should:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Identify the persons at risk and the significant hazards.</li><li>2. Calculate an initial RR for the activity.</li><li>3. Identify risk control measures that reduce the risks to an acceptable level.</li><li>4. Calculate a revised RR - you should consider how much safer the task will be if the control measures are followed. Here, you should consider changing both the likelihood (L) and the severity (S) ratings.</li></ol>							
<b>Note.</b> Ideally, you should look to reduce the risks so that the task can be classified as “low-risk”.								

Likelihood	Definition	Points rating
<b>Inevitable</b>	If the work continues as it is, there is almost 100% certainty that an accident will happen, for examples: A broken stair or broken rung on a ladder, Bare, exposed electrical conductors, Unstable stacks of heavy boxes	<b>5</b>
<b>Highly likely</b>	Will happen more often than not. Additional factors could precipitate an incident but it is still likely to happen without this additional factor.	<b>4</b>
<b>Possible</b>	The accident may occur if additional factors precipitate it, but it is unlikely to happen without them.	<b>3</b>
<b>Unlikely</b>	This incident or illness might occur but the probability is low and the risk minimal.	<b>2</b>
<b>Remote possibility</b>	There is really no risk present. Only under freak conditions could there be any possibility of an accident or illness. All reasonable precautions have been taken - This should be the normal state of the workplace.	<b>1</b>

Severity	Definition	Points rating
<b>Very high</b>	Causing multiple deaths and widespread destruction eg. fire, course/building collapse.	<b>5</b>
<b>High</b>	Causing death, serious injury or permanent disability to an individual.	<b>4</b>
<b>Moderate</b>	Temporary disability causing injury (to member of the public, contractor or employees) or disease capable of keeping an employee off work for seven days or more and reportable under RIDDOR (Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 1995).	<b>3</b>
<b>Slight</b>	Minor injury (to member of the public, contractor or employee), which would allow the individual to continue work after first aid treatment on site or at a local surgery. The duration of the stoppage or treatment is such that the normal flow of work is not seriously interrupted.	<b>2</b>
<b>Nil</b>	Very minor injury, bruise, graze, no risk of disease.	<b>1</b>

**Document Control (Amendments)**

<b>DATE</b>	<b>AMENDMENT(S)</b>	<b>AGREED BY</b>
<b>05 Oct 21</b>	<b>Whole Document</b>	<b>Mark Radcliffe (electronically signed)</b>
<b>13 Nov 23</b>	<b>Whole Document</b>	<b>Mark Radcliffe (electronically signed)</b>
<b>13 Nov 24</b>	<b>Whole Document</b>	<b>Mark Radcliffe (electronically signed)</b>
<b>24 Sep 25</b>	<b>Whole Document</b>	<b>Mark Radcliffe (electronically signed)</b>