DUKES BARN
learn through adventure

Risk Assessments

Rock Activities

Including: weaselling, scrambling, abseiling and indoor climbing wall

Contained in the following pages are the risk assessments for Dukes Barn Rock Activities.
These risk assessments have been carried out by the staff of Dukes Barn taking into account any entries to our accident / near miss report folder.
These risk assessments are reviewed, updated and amended on an annual basis.

January 2018

AN / CH

Rock Climbing

Including weaselling, scrambling, abseiling, and indoor climbing wall

Current as of: January 2018

Review by date: January 2019

Benefit Statement		Rock climbing / rock activities are an indoor and outdoor recreational sport, these are activities that are physically and mentally demanding as well as incredibly fulfilling. It is one of the world's fastest growing mainstream sporting activities. There is no getting away from the fact that these activities involve a level of risk. With good instruction and modern safety equipment the risks are reduced to an acceptable level, this enables anyone regardless of age or ability to enjoy these activities to their own comfort and ability level. These activities provide the opportunity for fun, challenge, teamwork, support and encouragement. In the following pages are Dukes Barn's risk assessment / safety management controls, followed by the operating procedures for these rock activities**.**		
What are the hazards?	**Who affected and Risk**	**What we are already doing / control measures**	**Further action required**	**Action required** Responsibility / dates due and completed
General	Staff and participants - Various injuries	■ The nature of the activity and choice of venue is based on: - The physical needs of the client - The clients previous experience - Educational aims of the session ■ All activity sessions are booked out on the activities venue board giving time out and expected return time ■ All sessions are led by a suitably qualified and experienced instructor with a current First Aid certificate ■ A dynamic risk assessment will be carried out by the instructor taking into account the group, venue, and environment. The instructor will adapt or even discontinue the activity if safety is compromised. ■ Instructors are familiar with standard operating procedures for the centre ■ All accidents and near miss incidents are recorded and appropriate action taken ■ Good group management and briefing before and during the activity	No further action at this time	

Hit from falling objects	Staff, participants and instructor - Head injury	■ Helmet worn on, and around the activity site ■ Good group management and briefing before and during the activity ■ Suitable venue choice	No further action at this time	
Fall from height	Staff, participants and instructor - Serious injury	■ Effective group management on site/route ■ Safe and efficient rope systems employed ■ Helmet worn ■ Good belay technique used, coached and monitored. ■ Bouldering – Climbing height limited, effective spotting ■ Participants to be supervised at the top of the crag ■ Instructor must give consideration to own safety during setting up	No further action at this time	
Slips and Trips	Staff, participants and instructor - Various injuries	■ Appropriate footwear used. ■ Access to, from and moving around the site assessed. ■ High risk areas highlighted to group during briefing, and managed effectively. ■ When deciding on session venue the instructors are to consider the impact of past and expected weather on underfoot conditions.	No further action at this time	
Equipment failure	Staff, participants and instructor - Various injuries	■ The condition of all equipment to be assessed prior to use, suspect items removed from service. ■ Avoid or protect ropes running over abrasive edges. ■ Ensure correct fitting and use of harnesses ■ Climbing hardware used appropriately	No further action at this time	
Abseiling entanglements	participants	■ Personal items and hair secured away from abseil device. ■ System for group abseiling is releasable.	No further action at this time	
Other site users	Anyone - Various injuries	■ The 0perations of other users on site should be identified and assessed ■ Discussions with other site users are useful to reduce any conflict and risks	No further action at this time	

Extreme weather	Staff and participants	■ The instructor to check weather forecast prior to activity and observe conditions throughout. If necessary change plans, amend activity or move to safe environment ■ Ensure participants have suitable and adequate clothing ■ Remind participants of sun protection	No further action at this time	
Additional risks at Millers Dale (Bridge 75)				
Cyclists	Staff and participants - Various injuries	■ Good group management and briefing before and during the activity	No further action at this time	
Slippery steps	Staff and participants	■ Good group management and briefing before and during the activity	No further action at this time	
Leaning over the railings	Staff and participants	■ Good group management and briefing before and during the activity	No further action at this time	
Additional risk in the Climbing Wall				
Fall from platform	Staff, participants and instructor - Serious injury	■ Building to be locked when not in use ■ Gate to platform to be locked if an instructor is not on the walkway or platform ■ Rope barrier at the top of the stairs to be used as additional control ■ Instructors and participants to be clipped into safety ropes	No further action at this time	4th January 2016
Hit from falling objects	Staff, participants and instructor - Head injury	■ Climbing helmets to be worn when appropriate	No further action at this time	4th January 2016
Big Swing				
Hit by participant on the swing	Staff, participants and instructor - Various injuries	■ Everyone to be in the safe areas before the participant on the swing is hoisted	No further action at this time	4th January 2016

Operating procedures

Abseiling

Instructor requirements:

Current First Aid, SPA or Level 2 LCMLA / CIC / MIA / MIC

Key briefing points:

- All participants should be wearing appropriate clothing. They should wear or carry, as is appropriate, hats, gloves, spare sweater/ fleece and foul weather clothing. Depending on the intended length of the activity participants should also carry drinks and additional food / lunches. Boots or trainers are appropriate footwear, the instructor should advise the group.
- The instructor should always carry a first aid kit.
  Additional safety equipment including an emergency shelter, sleeping bag and hot drinks may be carried if deemed necessary.
  Each participant must wear, (except in unusual circumstances), correctly fitting climbing harness and helmet.
- The group should be appropriately briefed before the session. Emphasis should be given to the importance of staying together, not throwing or dropping any items, showing awareness of other users, helping each other. Additional hazards, such as loose rock should be highlighted.

Millers Dale abseil

- The abseil rope must always be rigged to be releasable.
- Millers Dale (Bridge 75) protocol must be followed (See PDNP licence), including that for use of the gates for disabled users.
- In addition to the standard briefing the group should be briefed in the hazard of cyclists using the trail, slippery steps and leaning over the railings.
- All instructors must have attended a training session on the specific procedures used for abseiling using the gates.
- Particular attention should be given to the considerable hazard created by the opening of the gates, which should only remain open for the absolute minimum time necessary to move the group member into position for abseiling.
- Particular attention should also be given to the system used for safely getting the chair down to the bottom of the abseil without endangering staff or the public.

Operating procedures

Rock Climbing

Instructor requirements:

Current First Aid, SPA or higher qualification

Key briefing points:

- All participants should be wearing appropriate clothing. They should wear or carry, as is appropriate, hats, gloves, spare sweater/ fleece and foul weather clothing. Depending on the intended length of the activity participants should also carry drinks and additional food / lunches. Boots or trainers are appropriate footwear, the instructor should advise the group.
- The instructor should always carry a first aid kit. Additional safety equipment including an emergency shelter, sleeping bag and hot drinks may be carried if deemed necessary.
- Each participant must wear, when appropriate, correctly fitting climbing harness and helmet.
- The group should be appropriately briefed before the session. The importance of staying together, helping each other and additional hazards including traffic, loose rock and other users should be highlighted.
- The instructor should always be in a suitable position to supervise the whole group.
- All equipment used should meet UIAA/CEN specifications and /or should be suitable for their purpose.

Instructors should inspect all equipment at the start of any session and remove any item they are not happy with for inspection by the Head of Centre.

Operating procedures

Weaseling and Scrambling

Instructor requirements:

Current First Aid, SPA or higher qualification

Key briefing points:

- All participants should be wearing appropriate protective clothing.
  Dependent on conditions it may be necessary wear or carry, as is appropriate, hats, gloves, spare sweater/ fleece and foul weather clothing.
- Correctly fitting climbing helmet to be worn by all participants.
- Boots, wellies or trainers are appropriate footwear, the instructor should advise the group.

The instructor should always carry a first aid kit. Additional safety equipment including an emergency shelter, sleeping bag and hot drinks may be carried if deemed necessary.

Operating procedures

Indoor Climbing Wall

Instructor requirements:

Current First Aid, Minimum SPA or CWA

Instruction staff to be familiarised in the set up and operation of the climbing Wall

Key briefing points:

- The building must be locked when not in use.
- The gate to the first floor walkway must be kept locked if an instructor is not present on the platform.
- To further restrict access to the platform the rope barrier at the top of the stairs to platform must be used.
- Instructors and participants must be clipped in to safety lines whilst on the platform.
- During climbing or rope activities climbing helmets must be worn.
- All participants should be wearing appropriate clothing including clean footwear.
- The instructor should always have access to a first aid kit.
- Climbing helmets and/or harnesses must fit correctly.
- The group should be appropriately briefed before the session.
- The instructor should always be in a suitable position to supervise the whole group.
- All equipment used should meet UIAA/CEN specifications and /or should be suitable for its purpose.
- Instructors should inspect all equipment at the start of any session and remove any item they are not happy with for inspection by the Head of Centre.