


Location:	Leicester Outdoor Pursuits Centre	Date of Assessment:	1/4/10	Last Reviewed:	Dec 2024	Name of Assessor:	Chris Murnin
Activity:	Abseiling, Climbing and High Ropes	Assessment Reference Number:	4.1		CM	Signature of Assessor:	

HAZARD	CONTROL MEASURES
Falling from height	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All staff and participants at height must wear the correct harness and helmet for the activity. All staff and participants at height to be belayed throughout their activity unless secured to a safety line at the top of the tower or connected into the Aerial Trekking, Powerfan or Zipline systems. A qualified LOPC Instructor will manage all belaying as per training and qualification. Barrier chain at the top of the stairs must be in place when there is no one managing the top step. Barrier chains at Abseiling, Aerial Trekking, Zipline and Powerfan points must be in place when activity is not in use. Staff to warn participants against pulling down on their rope to aid their ascent. Staff supervision and reinforcement throughout. If instructor believes participants are likely to unclip themselves, then tying in should be used instead of clipping with a carabiner
Hitting head or danger from falling objects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All participants and staff must wear helmets at all times when inside the wooden fenced high ropes area or anywhere under the Zipline, when in use. Participants must be informed of how to react if the warning "Below" is shouted by the Instructor. All participants ensure their pockets are empty, or zipped up. Shoes must be adequately secured to feet. All equipment at height to be securely attached. All fixed equipment to be regularly checked (quarterly). People should be made aware of what may be going on above them. Staff supervision and reinforcement throughout. Plank of wood for participant aid must always be secured back on top of the main tower when Aerial Trek is not in use.
Structure failure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weekly and quarterly checks to be completed and recorded. Annual inspection by an ERCA approved ropes course engineer to be carried out. If there is any suspicion regarding the structural integrity or there is observation of structural damage then an inspection by an ERCA approved ropes course engineer must happen before any further use.
Equipment failure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All equipment checked prior to use. Any equipment found to be damaged or suspect to be withdrawn from use until repaired or scrapped. All equipment to be used in line with training. All equipment to conform to relevant standards (UIAA or CE). Regular checks, replacement (as per replacement schedule) and maintenance of equipment to be carried out. Periodical checks must be recorded. All belay systems to include the ground anchors and belayer. Fixed equipment to be checked and maintained as per manufacturer's recommendations.



Ground anchors failing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Anchors are included in weekly, periodical and operational inspections. ▪ The anchors are to be used as part of a system which must also include a person belaying. ▪ If any concern over the integrity of the ground anchor, it must not be used and reported to Management
Failure of belay system and operation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ On descent the rope must be tailed by the Instructor unless the Instructor holds CWI or higher. ▪ Only recognised belay systems must be used as identified in the LOPC High Ropes Manual ▪ Where the instructor does not hold a ropes qualification, an extra control measure must be used on the dead rope such as additional belayer or back up knot. ▪ Close supervision of novices.
Ill-fitting equipment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ All participants to have their personal protection equipment recorded by a member of staff on the management team. Staff are responsible for checking their own or Centre's personnel protection equipment prior to beginning of the session. ▪ Staff to explain the importance of correctly fitting equipment, and for participants to identify any issues for a member of LOPC staff to rectify. ▪ Staff vigilance to ensure that equipment remains correctly fitted throughout the session. ▪ When tying in, the loop on the figure of eight knot must be appropriate to the fit of the harness(es).
Mis-use of equipment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ All participants are shown how to use the equipment in a safe, controlled environment before being allowed on the course. ▪ Participants must be briefed not to use lead climbing bolts as hand holds. ▪ Staff supervision and reinforcement throughout.
Entrapment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Long hair to be tied up, rings to be removed. ▪ Loose clothing to be tucked in ▪ Participants made aware of potential hazards and Instructors to monitor. ▪ Ensure participants do not cross their belay ropes. ▪ Ensure unused ropes and tracers are stored neatly out of the way. ▪ Participants must be briefed not to use lead climbing bolts as hand holds. ▪ Staff supervision and reinforcement throughout.
Ladders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Refer to ladder risk assessment ref. 4.33. ▪ Ladders to be used in accordance with LOPC working at height guidelines.
Medical emergency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ All participants complete the relevant consent form. ▪ People with heart conditions or using heart medication must make a member of staff aware. ▪ People with asthma must show inhalers before activity. ▪ Participants bring their own medications to the location with them. ▪ First aid kit to be readily available. ▪ Staff to carry a mobile phone with them. ▪ Staff to be competent at emergency rescues.
Unauthorised access and use of off ground sections of facility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ All climbing ropes to be removed at the end of the day and all tracer lines to be secured out of reach. ▪ Climbing wall tarpaulin covers to be replaced at the end of each day. ▪ Ladders removed to secure storage at the end of the day. ▪ Inclined beam and Gladiator challenge to be returned to their elevated position at the end of the day. ▪ Crates to be stored in the compound.



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Gates and doors to be locked when the high ropes course is not in use. ▪ Suitable signage on display warning about the danger of unauthorised use.
Fire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ People to be evacuated from the Tower and assembled at Fire Assembly Point. ▪ Fire Service to be called immediately. ▪ Electricity supply to be turned off at the foot of the tower stairs if practical.
Items dropped from top of tower	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Everyone within the fenced area to be wearing a helmet ▪ Participants must wait in the designated activity area when they are on the ground ▪ Rope barriers to be in place around powerfan base ▪ Participants must be informed of how to react if the warning “Below” is shouted by the Instructor. ▪ All equipment at height to be securely attached. ▪ Staff supervision and reinforcement throughout.
Further risks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ All risks should be minimised by continual appraisal of participant’s condition, the environment and equipment through dynamic risk assessment by the staff members involved. ▪ Some risks remain due to the nature of the activity but every care must be taken to minimise these
Crate Stacking	
Falling crates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Belay points to be chosen well away from the area of collapse if possible. ▪ Instructors to influence the design of tower to enable prevention and recognition of tower falling. ▪ Other participants to be kept at a safe distance from collapsing tower. ▪ Instructors to warn participants to move away if tower is about to collapse. ▪ Manual handling of crates to be supervised by the Instructor. ▪ Instructors and participants are advised not to try to catch falling crates. ▪ On going risk assessment of individual crates and that they are free of sharp edges, unbroken and suitable for group use
Lowering participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Participants and ropes must be untangled from each other before being lowered. ▪ Landing area must be clear of crates before lowering participants.
Leap of Faith	
Collision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Participants and ropes must be untangled from each other before lowering. ▪ Only once the participants have stopped swinging, are they to be lowered to the ground.
Inclined Beam	
Powerfan safety area cones	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Cones only to be in place if Powerfan session is running.
Hoist chain	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Hoist chain to either be removed or secured high around the pole whilst the activity is in progress.
Gladiator Challenge	
Entrapment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ During activity briefing staff to warn group not to hold chains. ▪ Care to be taken when lowering participants, ensure this is done slowly and they are able to use hands and legs to keep themselves away from the obstacles.
Zipline	
Entrapment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Instructors to be aware of the hazard of body parts coming close to the trolley. ▪ Participants advised to hold on to the rope in front of them above the Rig if they wish to hold something.



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Just before participants jump, Instructor to check participants are not entangled in other ropes before removing their safety line.
Collision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Top Instructor to not release safety line until they can see the Zipline is clear, or have been given a signal from the Ground Instructor. Ground Instructor to manage the area and only signal when all obstructions are clear.
Falling from height	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Instructor must ensure the RIG rope is tight, the handle is in the locked position and the safety leash is on before removing the tower safety line. Ground Instructors must ensure a good grip of the rope once it has been dropped by the participant. Instructors to issue clear briefing and instructions before and during the activity. Participants to be told only to climb up 2 flights of stairs and wait for the Instructor to call them up the last flight 1 at a time.
Abseiling	
Falling from height	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participants to be secured to an abseil rope and a safety rope belayed from the top. The safety rope must be attached before their safety line is removed. When abseiling through the hatch all participants must be clear of the hatch at all times until they are called forward by the Instructor for their turn.
Entrapment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The abseil to be set up as trained. This must be releasable to allow for lowering in the case of emergencies.
Items dropped from top of tower	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participants must wait in the designated shelter or area when they are on the ground Instructor to re-attach figure of 8 descenders, either by bringing the rope up and working away from the edge, or by ensuring there are no participants below.
Powerfan	
Falling from height	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maximum weight of 16stone fully clothed. Instructors to explain to clients to land with both feet together. Ensure mats are in place for a more comfortable landing
Collision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure participants step clear of the take off platform. Instructor must visually check the area before allowing a participant to leave the platform. The drop zone area must be marked off to ensure that participants do not collide with people on the ground. A second responsible person can be used to manage the landing area if necessary.
Equipment failure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Powerfan is inspected daily before each use.
A Frame Climb	
Falling from height	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ground anchor bolt and roof anchor inspected quarterly Participants and spectators instructed not to climb on or lean over the rails of the stairs.
Being hit by an object or person falling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All participants wear correctly fitted helmets when climbing or when at the base of the wall. Access to ground level doors only to be allowed when climber is on the ground.
Banging head	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All people to wear correctly fitted helmets when climbing or when at the base of the wall. Participants only climb set climbing holds and not other parts of the building.
Bannister	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Warn participants to stay close to the wall when being lowered. Participants and spectators instructed not to climb on or lean over the rails of the stairs.

Swinging	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Instructor to brief participants of the risk of swinging and colliding with something. ▪ Warn climbers if they are going off route ▪ Advise where necessary to reduce risk.
Trapped hair / clothing / fingers / jewellery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ensure long hair is tied back, jewellery removed and loose clothing is tucked in. ▪ Only climbing holds to be used as handholds. ▪ Holds must be regularly checked and maintained. ▪ Participants lowered facing the wall to avoid snagging helmet on a hold
Further risks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ All risks should be minimised by continual appraisal of participant's condition, the environment and equipment through dynamic risk assessment by the staff members involved. ▪ Some risks remain due to the nature of the activity but every care must be taken to minimise these

