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Climbing and Abseiling Risk Assessment
Garners Field Climbing Tower
January-March 2026

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Hazards

Hazards Identified: Slips, Trips & Falls, Seating area. Unauthorised use, Vandalism, Equipment Failure, Human error, Items falling from height Falls from height, Rope burns Manual handling	Who may be affected? Instructors Participants Visitors
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Risks and Control Measures

What are the risks?	Safety Measures / Controls
Slipping or tipping on floor	Area to be checked during set up for any tip or slip hazards, Climbing associated equipment to be kept tidy before, during and after the session. Ground anchors marked with cones when not in use.
Injury resulting from unauthorised use	Climbing compound and tower door kept locked shut when not in use. Activity equipment is taken down and stored at the end of each day or if there are no further climbing sessions taking place. Instructor to check equipment at the start of each session. Instructor to be vigilant during the session to stop anyone from climbing etc. without permission.
Injury due to vandalism	Compound kept locked when not in use. <u>As a part of the set up process a routine visual check (RVC) of the tower must take place at the start of each day that the tower is in use. The RVC must be performed by a competent Climbing Instructor. When inspecting the top platform of the tower the person making the inspection must be wearing a harness and helmet and be connected to a safety line.</u> <u>The RVC should include</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Ground Surface</u> • <u>Sharp Edges</u> • <u>Missing components</u>

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Last review December 2025
Next Review January 2027

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>Integrity of the safety system</u>• <u>Trees, including hanging branches</u>• <u>Vandalism / damage to the tower</u> Instructor to visually check over the walls and general area when setting up. <p>Any problems to be reported to the Campsite warden.</p>
Equipment Failure	Tower inspected annually by a suitably qualified contractor. Climbing Equipment checked by a competent person every six months. Instructor visually checks the equipment and area prior to the activity taking place <u>(see RVC details above)</u> . — Appropriate equipment used in accordance with manufacturer's guidelines.
Injury due to incorrect use of equipment	Equipment set up information and pictures shown in SOP. Instructors hold a minimum of Scout Association Climbing Permit.
Injury resulting from tampering with equipment	A visual check is carried out on harnesses and helmets outside the compound including instructors buddy checking each others kit. Instructor checks all participants prior to them leaving the ground. <u>Prior to climbing activity commencing a safety briefing is given to all participants which includes not tampering with personal safety equipment (i.e. Harness and Helmet).</u> <u>Instructor checks all participants prior to them leaving the ground.</u>
Injury due to human error	Instructors hold a minimum of Scout Association Climbing Permit. Equipment set up in accordance with SOP Instructor checks all participants prior to them leaving the ground.
Injury due to a fall from height whilst climbing	Participants are only allowed to leave the ground once attached to the climbing rope with appropriate belaying set up in place. Should a member of staff need to leave the ground, they must ensure they do so in a safe manner. Lowering from a climb must be carried out by the instructor, or under close supervision of the instructor. <u>instructor / rope leader must remain in direct control of the rope at all times</u> Unless appropriate, the instructor must remain in control of the lower.

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Last review December 2025
Next Review January 2027

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<u>Injury due to a fall from height whilst rigging the tower</u>	<u>During the rigging of the climbing and abseiling equipment, Instructors working at the top of the tower must at all time be connected to a Tower Platform Safety line.</u>
Injury from equipment dropping from height	Everyone inside the climbing compound must wear a helmet at all times. If there is a reason why this cannot happen the instructor use their discretion with agreement from the campsite warden. When dropping ropes, the instructor must look before dropping to ensure no one is in the area.
Rope burns	Instructor to remain in control of the lower. Instructor to increase friction on belay device should they require it.

Abseiling risks

Injury due to a fall from height (<u>Participants</u>)	Having climbed the internal stairs to gain access to the abseiling platform. A safety line will be attached to the abseiler from the diagonal safety line at the top of the tower. A dedicated person will be at the top of stairs to carry this out. <u>The abseiler will not be released from the waiting position safety line until after the abseil safety line is attached and the instructor has control over it.</u> The abseiler will not be released from the safety line until after the abseil safety line is attached and the instructor is ready to operate the descent.
<u>Injury due to a fall from height (Instructors)</u>	<u>Instructors must be connected to a Tower Platform safety line at all time whilst rigging the abseil, or operating the abseil.</u>
Rope burns	Instructor maintains control of the participant's descent and can slow the participant down if they descend to quickly.
Entanglement with abseiling equipment	Participants instructed to tie long hair back, tuck in tags from clothing etc. Participants instructed not to put fingers into the figure 8 abseil device. Rescue procedure in place to lower a stuck abseiler.

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Risk Level

Risk level posed by the activity prior to control measures	High	Risk level posed by the activity following control measures	Low
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Next Review January 2027

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