

Summit Up Risk Assessment

Activity	Groups under instruction –V2	Date of Assessment	01/07/2026
Name of Assessor	Jon Wilson	Month to be reviewed	July



This risk assessment is a general risk assessment for visiting groups should they request a copy of our risk assessment. Visiting groups can use this risk assessment as part their planning for their visit but it does not absolve them from their responsibility to complete their own relevant risk assessments. This assessment covers the risks we feel are most relevant to groups attending the centre. It does not contain all the risks we have identified in our full centre risk assessments.

Hazard	Who is at risk /how they are at risk	Risk Likelihood / Consequence prior to control measures	Control put in place to reduce risk	Risk Likelihood / Consequence after control measures	Further action required
General centre hazards					
Slips, trips, falls	Who – anyone in/around building. Risk – Injury from falling caused by hazards.	M/M	- Regular checks of premises and any defects quickly repaired. - Adequate lighting in & around building during normal opening hours. - All spillages to be cleaned up quickly. Wet floor signs and area supervision to inform people of spillage and keep them away until it can be cleaned up. - Good housekeeping maintained i.e. Regular inspection of building, ensure walkways and corridors are clear and all equipment, stationary and personal effects are kept in designated storage areas. - Trailing leads kept to a minimum, provide sufficient outlets to support the range of equipment normally used. Use nearest available socket and only use extension leads and adaptors where necessary. Use cable covers where cables are a trip hazard.	L/M	

Hazard	Who is at risk /how they are at risk	Risk Likelihood / Consequence prior to control measures	Control put in place to reduce risk	Risk Likelihood / Consequence after control measures	Further action required
Outside walkways, access and emergency routes.	Who – anyone entering/leaving building. Risk – Slips, trips, falls, blocked routes	M/M	- Access and egress routes (footpaths and driveways) to the premises are to be maintained to a good standard, e.g. free from potholes and general trip hazards at all times - Adequate standards of lighting (artificial) should be provided, particularly to steps, stairways and passageways, during hours of darkness - Issues requiring attention are to be reported so that remedial action can be taken - Moss and lichen should be removed from walkways/paved areas on a regular basis in order to help prevent slips, trips and falls - Snow and ice should be cleared, and pathways/walkways gritted - Ensure that all paved areas and footpaths are safe for the use of the blind and partially sighted and wheelchair users and persons using walking aids (where applicable) - Gates from emergency exits checked regularly	L/M	
Burns and Scalds.	Who – anyone in/around building. Risk – Burns or scalds from hot items or hot water.	M/H	- Ensure no hot surfaces are accessible to young people, visitors or untrained staff. - Ensure water temperatures are not high enough to scald. Thermostatic mixing valves fitted to all sinks and temperatures monitored.	L/H	
Balconies	Who – anyone in building Risk – Injury from falling from balcony or being hit by object dropped from balcony	L/VH	- All balustrades to be checked on regular basis. - Staff trained to watch for customers climbing on balustrades or dropping/throwing items over them.	L/M	
Defective furniture	Who – anyone in/around building. Risk – trips, fall and other injuries from furniture.	M/M	Furniture should be visually inspected at regular intervals to ensure their continued suitability for use and a reporting system in place.	L/L	

Hazard	Who is at risk /how they are at risk	Risk Likelihood / Consequence prior to control measures	Control put in place to reduce risk	Risk Likelihood / Consequence after control measures	Further action required
Fire evacuation	Who – anyone in building. Risk – trips, falls & other injuries from blocked evacuation routes	M/VH	- All fire exits to be checked daily for proper function and blockages. - Ensure evacuation routes and emergency exits are free and clear of all obstructions and anything that could hinder a safe evacuation. - Entrances and exits must be clearly signed and well-lit. - Arrangements in place to ensure access is maintained in snowy or icy conditions. - Ensure that all escape routes are adequately lit in event of a power failure. - Regular inspection, tests and drills to take place. - All emergency lighting to be tested on a regular basis	L/H	
Fire	Who – anyone in building. Risk – property damage, smoke inhalation, burns and other injuries	L/VH	- Detailed Fire Risk Assessment reviewed annually. - Litter not allowed to accumulate, storage areas kept tidy. - Layout allows for unrestricted movement and safe circulation - Staff familiar with evacuation procedure, location of nearest call point and extinguishers. Fire exits checked daily for any obstructions and for ease of opening. - Fire alarm tested weekly, drills conducted on a regular basis. - Fire exits clearly marked and fire evacuation notices posted throughout site. - Fire doors checked regularly (self-closures operating, doors close freely etc.)	L/H	
Individuals entering activity areas unsupervised	Who – anyone in building. Risk – injury from incorrect use of equipment, falls from height	H/VH	- Signage at entrance to each area warning against unauthorised access. - Monitoring by staff from reception, around centre and on CCTV to identify unauthorised access - Parents, Guardians & Visiting group leaders briefed to supervise their groups around the centre	M/H	

Hazard	Who is at risk /how they are at risk	Risk Likelihood / Consequence prior to control measures	Control put in place to reduce risk	Risk Likelihood / Consequence after control measures	Further action required
Groups under instruction – All climbing areas					
Falling from height	Who – Clients / Staff Risk – Impact injury from falling on to protruding object, ground or on to object on ground. Hitting holds whilst falling.	VH / VH	• Rubber crumb flooring below all walls - checked for damage daily. • Matting under all bouldering walls– Checked daily for damage • Ropes provided for top roping, quickdraws provided for lead climbing all checked visually from ground daily and have a regular more detailed check. • Auto belays inspected daily and have a more detailed check monthly plus serviced annually • Group safety equipment checked regularly • Route setters trained to avoid placing holds where they may form a significant hazard to a falling climber. • No climbing un-roped in main climbing arena. • Novices to be supervised by qualified instructor. • Novice groups to be supervised when in roped climbing area by instructors and group staff • Pre climb checks done by clients and instructors prior to leaving ground.	L / VH	
Being hit by objects or people falling from height	Who - Clients / Staff Risk – Injury from being hit by falling holds, objects or persons	H / H	• Holds – Trained route setters, loose holds tightened by staff once reported. • Objects – customers asked not to carry loose items in pockets etc. • Rubber crumb flooring marks ‘fall zone’ below climbs roped climbs. • People – Customers warned of danger during registration & Induction. – monitored by floor walkers. Safety triangles form landing zone for CnC climbs. • Notices warning of danger • Note regarding use of helmets – Helmets may reduce the risk in some circumstances	L / M	

Hazard	Who is at risk /how they are at risk	Risk Likelihood / Consequence prior to control measures	Control put in place to reduce risk	Risk Likelihood / Consequence after control measures	Further action required
			but can introduce an extra risk particularly when using auto belays (hang up leading to strangulation) . Helmets will therefore not be required for climbers but may be used on roped climbs by customers personal choice but must be removed if using auto belays.		
Spinning Holds	Who - Clients / Staff Risk – Climber falling due to hold spinning	H / H	- Trained route setters, Holds pinned if likely to spin, loose holds tightened by staff once reported. - Notices warning of spinning holds	L / MH	
Entrapment	Who - Clients / Staff Risk – Clothing, skin or hair in belay devices potentially leading to strangulation or suspension trauma. Fingers or limbs stuck leading to crush injuries or suspension trauma	L / VH	- Instructors monitor group for potential trap hazards and remove or reduce risk as appropriate. - Route setters trained to reduce possibility of entrapment. - Staff trained in solving stuck climber issues.	VL / M	
Incorrect instruction or instructor error	Who – Clients / Staff. Risk – injury caused by incorrect instruction or instructor error setting up equipment	L / H	- Instructors trained & assessed to provide instruction at level required for course. - Regular further staff training, monitoring and assessment. - Records of staff competency, training, monitoring, and assessment kept and available to staff when taking bookings/allocating staff.	VL / H	
Incorrect use of equipment	Who – Clients / Staff. Risk – injury caused by incorrect fitting or use of equipment	L / H	- Instructors trained & assessed to provide instruction at level required for course. - All harnesses checked by instructors prior to use. - Instruction given on attachment to rope and belaying to all courses members prior to climbers leaving ground. - Pre climb checks done by clients and instructors prior to leaving ground.	VL / M	

Hazard	Who is at risk /how they are at risk	Risk Likelihood / Consequence prior to control measures	Control put in place to reduce risk	Risk Likelihood / Consequence after control measures	Further action required
			- Novice belayers backed up by instructor or other course member. - Regular further staff training, monitoring and assessment. - Records of staff competency, training, monitoring, and assessment kept and available to staff when taking bookings/allocating staff.		
'Stuck' Climber	Who - Clients Risk – emotional wellbeing, psychological trauma	M / M	- Challenge by choice, no one 'forced' to go beyond their limits. - Staff trained to help 'stuck' climber to descend.	L / L	
Sports injuries	Who – Clients / staff Risk – Over use injuries	M / M	- Groups under instruction given appropriate warm up - Groups discouraged from activities which may lead to injury - All instructional staff first aid trained	L / M	
Medical or behavioural issues, fitness level or other special needs.	Who – Clients / staff. Risk – Unknown medical, Injury, illness or behavioural issue putting clients or staff at risk of injury	M / M	- Visiting group leader completes group booking participant information form including a summary of group medical & other needs. - All instructional staff first aid trained - Liaison with client and or group organiser to identify needs of individual or group and identifying if appropriate to activity. - Clear behaviour management policies in place appropriate to activity and client needs - Adjustment of instructor / student ratios to match needs of client group. Additional support from group leader or carer - Activity and challenge selected that is appropriate to the group's fitness level - Variety of equipment to suit most clients – staff trained that clients cannot participate if they do not fit PPE.		
Clothing, footwear & hair	Who –Clients / staff Risk – Clothing or hair catching in	M / M	Long hair tied back, clothing and footwear appropriate for activities being undertaken.	L / L	

Hazard	Who is at risk /how they are at risk	Risk Likelihood / Consequence prior to control measures	Control put in place to reduce risk	Risk Likelihood / Consequence after control measures	Further action required
	equipment, obstructing movement or falling from height causing injury		Particular attention paid to scarves, hoody pull cords etc. in situations where they may get caught and shoes that may fall off whilst climbing.		
Jewellery / piercings	Who – Clients / staff Risk - Puncture wounds, tearing, de gloving injuries caused by catching jewellery or piercings during activities	M / M	- Same jewellery policy applied to U18's as in most schools i.e. nothing worn, small studs at most, piercings taped over. - Adults recommended to remove all jewellery - Staff vigilant in monitoring jewellery policy	L / L	
Abuse	Who - young people or vulnerable adults Risk – Physical, sexual or psychological abuse by clients employees or 3 rd parties	L / H	- Safeguarding policy in place - DBS checks, Safeguarding training specific to delivering activities - Staff trained in corporate safeguarding policies and procedures - Staff aware to look for and report signs and symptoms. - Staff vigilance.	VL / H	
Visiting Group Leader (VGL)	Who – Clients , staff Risk – Injury to self or others due to lack of understanding / competence / fitness	L / H	- Pre course information and Instructors to brief VGLs in roles and responsibilities e.g. helping with pastoral responsibilities, behaviour etc. - Clear instructions from instructors about what they require VGLs to do (or not to do) during activity sessions. - If VGLs participating in activity they are party to same instructional brief as group and join in with the same coaching / instruction.	VL / L	
Self taught groups / facility hire	Who – Clients & staff Risk – Poor instruction or group management leading to injury to	L / H	- All instructors of self-taught groups, must hold appropriate qualifications and experience. - SS Induction to local issues. - Standard letting and insurance forms completed for bookings.	VL / M	

Hazard	Who is at risk /how they are at risk	Risk Likelihood / Consequence prior to control measures	Control put in place to reduce risk	Risk Likelihood / Consequence after control measures	Further action required
	people or damage to property				
Groups under instruction – Roped climbing					
Climbers climbing unattached to ropes	Who - Clients Risk – Clients falling to ground	L / VH	- Instructors and VGL to supervise groups in activity areas - Groups told not to leave ground unless told to do so by instructor as part of safety briefing - All climbers checked by peers and instructors before leaving ground - Always staff on site trained to rescue unattached climbers	VL / VH	
Incorrect/poor belaying	Who - Clients Risk – Clients falling to ground	H/VH	- Groups given clear instruction and practice of belaying before climbers leave ground - All novice belayers backed up with a tailer in the system. - Instructors directly supervise novice belayers	L/VH	
Groups under instruction – Bouldering					
Climbers landing awkwardly	Who - Clients Risk – Injury from impact with matting	M/H	- Instructors brief group to climb down if possible and how to land safely if not. - Down climbing holds placed at locations around the wall to aid decent.		
Climbers climbing over top/inside walls	Who - Clients Risk – Clients falling inside wall or off top of wall	L / M	- Instructors brief group not to do so and monitor during session - Notices reminding customers not to top out except on specified areas. - Staff trained to open access panels to let customers out if returning over top of wall likely to increase risk	L / L	
Mezzanine level	Who - Clients / Staff Risk – Falling from mezzanine level to ground, getting 'stuck' on	M / H	- Instructors to supervise ascent/decent to mezzanine level - Clear easy decent marked from mezzanine level. - Staff trained to 'talk' nervous climbers down from mezzanine level	L / L	

Hazard	Who is at risk /how they are at risk	Risk Likelihood / Consequence prior to control measures	Control put in place to reduce risk	Risk Likelihood / Consequence after control measures	Further action required
	mezzanine level, injured climber not being able to get down from mezzanine level		Fixed stretcher rescue system in place and staff trained to use for injured climbers		
Auto belays, In roped climbing Arena & Clip n Climb					
Climbers climbing unattached to auto belays	Who - Clients Risk – Clients falling to ground	L / VH	- Auto belay tapes attached to safety triangles to deter climbing without being attached - Instructors and VGL to supervise groups in activity areas - Auto belays in CnC area - Belaymates used to make a safer attachment to the auto belay, groups briefed on how to use them as part of safety briefing - Auto belays in roped area - Groups told not to leave ground unless checked and told to do so by instructor as part of safety briefing - Are you clipped in signs on bottom of auto belay routes in roped area. - Always staff on site trained to rescue unattached climbers	VL / VH	
Climbers landing on other clients when being lowered	Who – Clients / Staff Risk – climbers hitting other climbers causing injury to one or both.	H / M	- Safety briefing warns of danger - Novices to be supervised by qualified instructor when on auto belays. 'Fall zone' Marked by safety triangle on floor below climbs. - Notices warning of danger	L / M	
Climber gets 'hung up' on Auto belays	Who - Clients Risk – Clients getting 'hung up on holds possibly resulting in hanging or suspension trauma	L / H	- Routes set to reduce risk of hang up. - Monitoring by floor walkers / instructors. - Staff trained in auto belay rescues	VL / M	
Auto belay jams/fails	Who - Clients	L / M	Auto belays inspected / maintained as per manufacturers instructions.	VL / M	

Hazard	Who is at risk /how they are at risk	Risk Likelihood / Consequence prior to control measures	Control put in place to reduce risk	Risk Likelihood / Consequence after control measures	Further action required
	Risk – Clients left hanging unable to descend possibly resulting in suspension trauma		- Staff trained to rescue climber from jammed auto belay. - Staff trained to treat any failure where the tape goes loose or unspools as an unattached climber. - Always staff on site trained to rescue unattached climbers		

Level	Risk Likelihood	Risk Consequence
VL= Very Low	Very unlikely to happen	No or very minor injury e.g. splinters
L = Low	Unlikely to happen	Minor injury e.g. minor cut, graze or bruise
M = Medium	Moderate chance of happening	Moderate injury likely to stop casualty completing task
H = High	Quite Likely to Happen	Serious injury requiring medical assistance e.g. broken bone, major cut
VH = Very High	Highly likely to happen	Very serious injury potentially life changing or fatality

NOTES

Version History

Groups under instruction – Public version created 18-10-22 by Jon Wilson

Version 2 created 16/6/26 by Jon Wilson

Review record - The Review Process. Summit Up risk assessments will be reviewed when it is suspected that the assessment is no longer valid or there has been a significant change. In addition they will be reviewed annually

Date reviewed	Reviewed by	Reason for review /comments.	No Changes required	Minor changes required (highlighted)	Major changed required - new version created	Next review due	Signed
16/10/23	Jon Wilson	Annual review	Yes			October 2024	Jon Wilson
30/10/24	Jon Wilson	Annual review		yes		October 25	Jon Wilson
21/10/25	Jon Wilson	Annual review			No	October 2026	Jon Wilson
16/06/26	Jon Wilson	Review following accidents on 7/6/26 and 23/6/26 plus information gathered separately regarding the retraction spring failure of a TruBlue auto belay on 29/5/26	Yes Version 2 created			July 2027	Jon Wilson