East Sussex County Council

RISK ASSESSMENT FORM

Workplace	Buzz Active – Bushy Wood	**Likelihood (L)**	**X**	**Severity (S)**
Risk Assessor	Tom Fallon	Almost Impossible	1	Insignificant (minor injury, no time off)
Activity/Task	Climbing Wall	Unlikely	2	Minor (injury and up to 7 days off)
Date reviewed	23/02/2026	Possible	3	Moderate (injury causing more than 7 days off)
Benefit of activity	Learning new skills, fun, develop trust, self-esteem, confidence, physical activity, develop coordination, strength, flexibility,	Likely	4	Major (death or serious injury)
		Almost Certain	5	Catastrophic (multiple deaths)
		Low = 1-8	**Medium = 9-14**	**High = 15-25**

What are the significant, foreseeable, hazards? *(The dangers that can cause harm)*		**Who is at Risk?**	**Current control measures** *(What is already in place/done)*	**Risk Rating**			**What additional control measures can be put in place to reduce the risk further?**	**Revised Risk Rating**		
				L	**S**	**R**		**L**	**S**	**R**
1.	Manual Handling	All	Staff to not carry more than two set ups at one time. When pulling the rope through using the tracer don't pull hard or force it, when tailing the rope with group, face the wall and the climbers to prevent twisting and awkward movements. Kneel to adjust the ground anchor avoid bending down and putting strain on your back. Avoid carrying bunches of helmets and harnesses long distances use the trolley provided.	**2**	**2**	**4**				

2.	Instructor Qualifications	Staff	All instructors to hold relevant qualifications or experience as below. - ERCA High Ropes instructor + site induction - Hold the ERCA Site Specific High & Low ropes instructor + site induction - In-house site-specific training delivered by Tom Fallon & In-date assessment by Ellis Bird. - Hold the CWI + Site Specific Induction delivered by Tom Fallon.	**1**	**4**	**4**				
3.	Rigging and set up	Staff Participant	Visually inspect the kit as setting up. This is signed off daily. Check all metal work. Check the rope for any damage or signs of wear. Set up ground anchor using a semi direct system. Belay master must be used on climber with gate shut and checked.	**2**	**3**	**6**				
4.	Vandalism/damage causing failure	Staff Participant	Routine daily inspection of the compound, walls and surrounding prior to use and recorded on the inspection sheet. Compound to be locked at the end of the day and no equipment left out unattended. Anything that has been spotted must be reported to the senior in charge and taken off session if not fit for use. Vegetation to be kept clear.	**2**	**4**	**8**				

5.	Wearing inappropriate equipment	Staff Participant	The instructor to check that the climber is to be correctly fitted in a harness and helmet as below; Climbing- Sit Harness & Helmet. If small or overweight to wear a chest harness.	**1**	**4**	**4**				
6.	Lowering the climber	Staff Participant	Instructors are to brief participants they are not to touch the leaver on the Gri-gri. Instructors are to be directly involved with the lower i.e. They must do the lower. Instructors need to keep line of sight with all other active ropes & Climbers. Redirect Karabina can be used for lowering. Strong briefing for the whole group of what to do in case of coming off the wall and how to descend the wall afterwards with legs straight to avoid impact with body parts on holds.	**2**	**4**	**8**				

7.	Falling Climber	Staff Participant	Climbers must be attached using a belay master checked by the instructor prior to use. All belayers to use a GriGri and the dead end of the rope to be tailed by 4 hands or the instructor. Participants to help bell ring with a minimum of 4 hands on the tail of the rope. Larger climbers must be kept especially tight when close to the ground due to the added rope stretch. Belayers must be in direct line of ground anchor to stop being pulled forward in case of a fall. Follow ABC in a straight line. Strong briefing for the whole group of what to do in case of coming off the wall. The group to help the climber with spotting and assistance with route planning. Belay to be set up with correct height for each climber. Visual inspection to the wood chippings and the floor before the session. Use a rake to move chippings if needed. No climber to go above the last climbing hold or on the ledge. – need to monitor	**2**	**4**	**8**				

8.	Belay failure	Staff Participant	All equipment visually inspected prior to use. Instructor will teach bell ringing system for belay, using a GriGri and semi direct ground anchor. All hair, hands and loose clothing to be kept away from the belay device. Participants to demonstrate the bell ringing technique before the climber leaves the floor. Instructor must check the belay is clipped in and threaded correctly before any climbing takes place. If the instructor is not tailing the rope, there must be 4 hands on the rope. The ground anchor is tight and the (Anchor/ belay/ Climber) A, B, C is kept in alignment. Without those tailing the rope being directly below the climber. It is acceptable for instructor to be belaying independently using the conventional 5-point method, (up, down, one, two, three)	**2**	**4**	**8**				
9.	Climbing - strains and muscle injury	Staff Participant	Instructor to brief the group on climbing technique. Good warm up prior to session. Choose easier climbs to begin with to reduce injury. Inform them to only use the holds to climb, not the side of the structure.	**2**	**3**	**6**				

10.	Grazes from the wall or equipment	Staff Participant	The instructor must be involved with the lower and should use a redirect friction karabiner with a heavier client. Good technique practised for lowering off. Feet flat against the wall legs out in front to prevent rubbing holds holding the rope in front. When climbing hands must be on the hold and not on the rope. Keep hands and fingers away the SRB's at the top. Appropriate clothing to be worn to protect scuffs. Good technique taught for climbing using only hands and feet, discourage the use of knees and elbows. Don't lower too quickly, make sure the climber is directly underneath the anchor to prevent swing. Good briefing and monitoring of lowering of client.	**2**	**4**	**8**				

11.	Equipment failure and entrapment	Staff Participant	Harnesses and helmets to be checked by instructors prior to use and fitted correctly. If the client needs to remove any equipment for any reason, then it must be checked again by the instructor before joined in the session again. Toggles, loose clothing, and jewellery to be secured or removed. Long hair to be tied back and/or tucked out the way. Ensure trainers are done up tight and any concerning objects in pockets removed. Spinning hold may happen. Please alert the group and then report and fix at the earliest convenience. If a tracer is dropped only qualified staff may retrieve the line under the supervision of a qualified belayer. – Refer to the access & working at height risk assessment.	**2**	**4**	**8**				
12.	Bouldering	Staff Participant	We do not boulder on the climbing wall.	**2**	**4**	**8**				
13.	Thunderstorm	All	Activity stopped and participant to come down. Participants to move away from the tree area. Checking weather forecast before the day. Sessions to shut if amber or red weather warning issued. If yellow, please make a judgement on the day with a dynamic risk assessment.	**2**	**4**	**8**				

14.	Weather	All	Dress appropriately for the conditions, strong briefing as surfaces get slippery in the wet. Monitor groups in severe heat and allow breaks for water and shade.	**2**	**2**	**4**				
15.	Impact from other climbers	Participants	Brief the group on the route they need to climb and stop any other indirect routes being used. Communication between other people on the walls, to alert if fatigue is setting in. No climber to climb beneath another person. Make climbers aware of the dangers of using handholds with other people's feet nearby and crush injuries.	**2**	**3**	**6**				
16.	Biohazards	All	Visually check the area for any matter that may impact the session. Remove, if possible, wash hands after the session.	**2**	**2**	**4**				
17.	Group behaviour	All	If dangerous stop the session and remove from the area. Strong briefing given by instructor for communication and safety. Group to be adequately always supervised when on the ground. No one to walk under the climbing wall and if not climbing to stay outside the belay area. Helmet to be always worn when in the compound. If there are problems alert the senior onsite immediately. If a climber tries to remove themselves from the system, put the ropes in very tight.	**3**	**2**	**6**				

18.	Participant stuck on the wall/ will not come down.	Staff Participant	1 – Prevention is better that cure, Appropriate briefing, practicing lowering lower down the wall before climbing higher. 2 – Soft skills. 3 – If above fails, use a participant to climb up alongside and attach a rope to them, Use the group to pull them off the wall. The instructor is not to leave the ground.	**1**	**4**	**4**				
19.	Climbing Safety Brief	ALL	1 – Please don't climb unless agreed by instructor before hand 2 – If you're nervous ask the instructor to set up a lowering practice before you go up 3 – Belayers, please don't touch the black leaver on the GriGri, this is for the instructors only	**1**	**5**	**5**				

Action Plan ***(when will the above additional control measures be implemented and by whom?)***

Action	By Whom?	Deadline	Date Completed
Ground anchor points to be made more visible as they are a trip hazard	Chief instructor	17/10/2024	1/10/2024
Chippings to be added as per advice from capstone Winter 2025	Bushy wood	01/02/2026	22/12/25

Signature and review

1st review undertaken by:	Richard Wilson	**Date:**	23/08/2019
2nd review undertaken by:	Pip Lansdown	**Date:**	18/01/2023
3rd review undertaken by:	Pip Lansdown	**Date:**	14/07/2023
4th review undertaken by:	T Fallon	**Date:**	01/04/2024
5th review undertaken by	R Wilson	**Date:**	11/02/2025
6th review undertaken by:	R Wilson	**Date:**	23/02/2026