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	Jacobs Ladder	Unlikely	2	Minor (injury and up to 7 days off)
Date reviewed	09/02/2026	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 down to adjust the ground anchor don't just bend putting strain on your back. Don't carry 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. - Hold the ERCA Site Specific High & Low ropes instructor (Valid for 3 years) - 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**	**5**	**5**				
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. Double figure of 8 and stopper knot must be used on climber and checked before leaving the floor.	**2**	**4**	**8**				
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 Sit Harness, Chest Harness & Helmet.	**2**	**3**	**6**				

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 element afterwards, how to avoid impact with body parts on the ladder.	**2**	**3**	**6**				

7.	Falling Climber	Staff Participant	Climbers must be tied in chest and sit harness with a double figure 8 and stopper knot, checked by the instructor prior to leaving the floor. 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.	**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 gri-gri 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 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.	Strains and muscle injury	Staff Participant	Instructor to brief the group on climbing technique. Good warm up prior to session.	**2**	**3**	**6**				

10.	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. 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**				
11.	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**	**3**	**6**				
12.	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. Use of a redirect for lowering in wet conditions or with wet equipment.	**2**	**2**	**4**				

13.	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**				
14.	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 supervised at all times 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 worn when in the compound at all times. If there are problems alert the senior onsite immediately. If a climber tries to remove themselves from the system, pull the ropes in very tight.	**3**	**2**	**6**				
15.	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**				

16.	Jacobs Ladder Safety Brief	ALL	1 – Please don't climb unless agreed by instructor before hand 2 - Belayers, please don't touch the black leaver on the gri-gri, this is for the instructors only 3 – not holding onto the cables either side. 4 – not holding onto any ropes whilst climbing 5 – how to help your team; * encourage gladiator handshake (Wrist to wrist) * Bend the knee, Stand on thigh. 6 – Avoid climbing under the rungs. 7 - When lowering, come down the slide they climbed up.	**1**	**5**	**5**				
17.	Injury on cables	All	Don't touch the cables as per safety brief.	**2**	**3**	**6**				
18.	Creating slack in the system	All	Not holding onto any ropes whilst climbing, use other participants to help, as per safety brief.	**2**	**3**	**6**				
19.	Big Fall (Lead Fall)	Participant	As per safety brief, don't climb under rungs. Instructors need to monitor this throughout session.	**2**	**2**	**4**				
20.	Participant can't be lowered	Participant	As per safety brief, when lowering, come down the slide they climbed up.	**2**	**2**	**4**				

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

Signature and review

1st review undertaken by:	R Wilson	**Date:**	11/02/2025
2nd review undertaken by:	R Wilson	**Date:**	09/02/2026
3rd review undertaken by:		**Date:**	
4th review undertaken by:		**Date:**	