

RISK ASSESSMENT

LOCATION/ACTIVITY/ISSUE BEING ASSESSED:	Mobile Climbing Tower. Dinton Activity Centre		
SERVICE/TEAM:	Countryside Service		
NAME OF ASSESSOR(s):	Mike Bennett		
DATE OF ASSESSMENT:	01 December 2024		
DATE FOR REVIEW:	December 2025		
APPROVED BY:	Signature: <i>M. J. Bennett</i>	Date: 01/03/2025	
	Name: Mike Bennett		

SUMMARY (* delete as appropriate)	
Risk level without additional controls:	HIGH / MEDIUM / LOW *
Additional control measures required:	YES / NO *
Risk level with additional controls:	HIGH / MEDIUM / LOW *

What are the significant hazards?	What could go wrong? Who could be harmed and how?	What is being done to control the risks?	Amendment notes
Staff	<p>Lack of training and experience or lead instructors with reliance on skills of assistants causing accidents/injury to participants and staff.</p> <p>External distractions, parents etc. needing to be looked after by instructors at bottom of tower.</p>	<p>Climbing assistants can assist lead instructors by equipping the participants. Assistants must not belay ropes unless under direct line of site and supervision by the lead, who has given permission on that day. Assistants do not add to ratios. Assistants must no work alone.</p> <p>Staff ratios, training and qualifications according to NGB guidance.</p> <p>Reduce distractions and limit the number of people who have access to the working area beneath the wall.</p>	

Conducting Rescues	Staff unfamiliar with rescue procedures get injured. Participant waiting for rescue in panic.	Staff wear harness to expedite rescues. Rescue ropes rigged on all J hooks, guided behind the wall & tied to trailer ready for use in case of emergency ascent/decent needed. Rescue procedure similar to that of indoor climbing.	
Participants	Participants landing on outrigger legs during decent Emotional Entrapment Clothing, hair, jewellery catching on tower.	Padding placed on trailer outrigger legs. Participants encouraged to climb to head height then practice descending at low levels to avoid entrapment at height. Clothing secured, jewellery removed where practical and secured under clothing or with tape if not removable. Participants to remove or securely tape jewellery. Rings must be removed on children and adults will be strongly advised to remove their wedding and other rings. Risks clearly outlined including de-gloving or indeed losing a finger. Tape can be provided, but participants must be advised that this will not stop such an injury, but merely reduce the potential for it to happen. Hair tied back; hair-ties available in tower storage box.	
Environmental Considerations	Strong Winds Tower falls down due to strong wind Damage to people or property	Wind speed on forecast to be monitored. 20mph and above - no one is allowed on the climbing tower 30+ mph climbing tower should not be erected or taken down Wind speed and conditions to be monitored on site with knowledge of signs of wind speed as seen from	

	Electrical Storms	ground – action of trees and water, Beaufort scale and signs print out in tower lock box. If lightning is sighted all tower operations are to cease until 30 minutes after the last lightning activity.	
The Wall	Structural Failure	Annual service, inspection report and certification of rock N road trailer and auto belays are carried out by Enter-prises. Pre-use/pre-travel inspection conducted by DAC staff. Faults logged and wall quarantined if necessary. All Inspections logged on Papertrail.	
Spinning Holds	Spinning Holds causing climber to come off wall unexpectedly.	Tools available for tightening spinning holds. Loose holds tightened at earliest safe opportunity.	
Auto-Belays	Auto-belay malfunction, jamming, damage to tape.	Service & Inspection of Tru-blue devices in line with manufacturer recommendations logged on Papertrail. Protective casing, tape and clip visual checks during wall set up (daily). Rescue ropes on both sides will allow safe access and swift rescue. Padding placed on trailer outrigger legs.	
	Max weight limit of auto-belay devices 150kg / 23st / 330lbs	Harnesses selected to discreetly limit participants who would otherwise be over the working load limit of the auto belays from taking part.	
	Participants not correctly attached to auto-belays	Instructors to attach and detach participants from tri-lock carabiners.	
	Participants pulling extra slack into the auto-belay tape before lowering.	Instructors to get students to practice descending at lower levels to build confidence in the auto-belay.	

		Instructors to have good observation of climbers when on the wall.	
Erecting the tower	Collision during manoeuvres and set-up of tower – e.g., overhead cables. Failure of the structure post erection. Participants Staff Members of Public	The dimensions of the climbing wall should be taken into consideration when deciding where to erect it. There should be 4m clearance on all sides of the tower. Do not erect it where there are any overhead obstructions such as tree branches, power cables or phone lines. Follow the instructions from wall manufactures on the exact procedure.	
Installing J-Hooks and Auto-belays	Personal injury during installation Incorrect installation	2 people to conduct rigging of auto-belays due to weight & unwieldy handling. Follow manufacturer's instructions for installation of J-hooks & auto-belays.	
Collision during moving of mobile tower	Trailer collision with other road users Trailer collision with a stationary object Climbing wall collides with overhead obstacle while being erected Participants Staff Members of Public	Vehicle policy to be adhered to. Accessibility pre-check of locations of bookings may be considered. Drivers to hold B+E licence Reversing manoeuvres to be executed exclusively with a banksman in constant radio contact Careful observation of overhead obstacles	
Equipment	Not fitting correctly, coming loose or undone by participants, wear and tear.	Pre-use checks of equipment & bi-annual inspections carried out by climbing qualified staff. Logged on papertrail. Faulty equipment removed from service.	
Harnesses		Different harness sizes available including full body harnesses for both children and adults.	

<p>Helmets</p> <p>Ropes</p>	<p>Harnesses not fitting smaller participants correctly leading to feeling uncomfortable and loose fitting harnesses.</p> <p>Instructors own personal equipment not inspected by centre.</p> <p>Helmet entrapment on holds during decent.</p> <p>Failure, incorrect knots or rigging</p>	<p>Only centre harnesses and metal work should be used, no instructor personal kit. Instructors authorised by technical advisor to lead the session. Supervision ratios are in place.</p> <p>Helmets not used with auto-belays. Helmets must be used when using roped belaying and the hoist rig.</p> <p>Captive eye tri lock carabiners are to be used for clipping in to ropes. Carabiners should be tied onto ropes with a figure of 8 with a stopper knot only. Auto-belay devices have their own locking carabiner attached to the webbing tape.</p> <p>Ropes checked every use and in scheduled inspections.</p>	
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REVIEWS AND REVISIONS				
Review date	Name of Assessor	If not, list adjustments with details of who will action and by when	Approved by Manager	Date of next review
Dec 2024	Mike Bennett	New assessment generated after advice & guidance from Paul Smith.	Mike Bennett	Dec 2025