Risk Assessment: Rock Climbing

How Stean Gorge will minimise risks associated with this activity by using an appropriately competent instructor to lead the activity. The instructor will use this risk assessment and other associated paperwork as the basis for the safe delivery of the activity. Howstean Gorge recognises the need to have a dynamic approach to risk assessment and therefore the instructor will continually risk assess the activity as it develops and put into place the necessary actions.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hazard</th>
<th>To who</th>
<th>Unmanaged Risk</th>
<th>Control Measures</th>
<th>Managed Risk</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Faulty equipment</td>
<td>All users</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>All equipment is checked regularly in line with P.P.E regulations and How Stean Gorge policies. Equipment not meeting our high standards is removed from service for repair or destruction.</td>
<td>Low</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equipment system failure</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>All anchors checked for suitability prior to use by a competent member of staff.</td>
<td>Low</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ill-fitting equipment</td>
<td>All users</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>Instructor to brief group on the fitting of all equipment. All participants must have their equipment checked by the instructor before leaving the ground.</td>
<td>Low</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Falling from height</td>
<td>All users</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>Brief the group on the Dangers of the area and the importance of the group staying together. Instructors operating at height must be attached to a suitable anchor whenever possible and should inform a responsible person where they are. All participants must be checked for secure attachment to the rope. If peer belaying is being used the instructor should directly supervise with particular attention paid to the process of lowering. Consider tying directly into harness to prevent unclipping</td>
<td>Low</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Blow to head

**All users**

**High**

Brief participants on not throwing stones/objects and to stay away from the bottom of the climb when not participating. All participants must wear a helmet.

**Low**

## Entanglement in ropes

**Group**

**Medium**

Tie back long hair. Remove loose clothing, toggles and jewellery.

**Low**

## Panic attack/refusal

**Group**

**Medium**

Instructor should select appropriate venues for the group. Efficient and safe evacuation of student from cause. Instructor to carry out appropriate rescues if required.

**Low**

## Hypothermia / Hyperthermia

**Group**

**Medium**

Instructor should ensure that the group is appropriately prepared for the activity and conditions.

**Low**

## Injury whilst Bouldering / Wheezeling

**All users**

**High**

The instructor should select suitable obstacles and routes for the group and conditions. Where appropriate spotting techniques should be used. The participants should be shown how to spot correctly and monitored during the activity. The activity should be stopped / adapted if the participants are not of a sufficient competence level. Consider use of bouldering mat – but care not to see as a replacement for correct choice of venue.

**Low**

## Peer Belaying

**Group**

**Medium**

Groups are to be correctly managed when peer belaying. Styles/methods such as bell ringing, may be very useful to enable more than one climber at once. Tailing the dead rope, as a back up. If this method is not suitable for the group, then do not proceed with peer belaying.

**Low**