

Adventure Sunderland



Activity Risk Assessment

Abseiling

Location: Sunderland Marina

Any areas outside of this need a site specific risk assessment and management approval

Hazard	Potential harm	To Whom	Control Measures
Remote Operation	Exacerbate any injury or illness	Staff and participants	Activity only to be carried out by qualified (CWI with abseil module/RCI) having undergone activity induction and having completed a competency statement. Staff must take the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• First aid kit• Mobile phone• Group shelter
Fall from height	Personal injury/ Death	Staff and participants	Participants wear climbing harness and are belayed via another participant / instructor. Chest harness to be worn when there is a risk of client inversion. All anchors to be checked prior to use and ropes rigged as per MTLA/BMC standard practices. Abseil to be rigged as per MTLA/BMC standard practices and participants managed away from the take-off zone until tied in. Spectators to stay with two feet on the ground behind the coping stones with railings on.
Snagging / falling items	Injury	Staff and participants	Remove loose clothing, jewelry and all rings before abseiling. Advise clients to empty pockets before abseiling. Helmets to be worn at all times except when in a 'safe area' as designated during safety brief by a staff member.

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Alcohol / drug abuse	Personal injury	Staff and participants	Staff to exclude anyone who is apparently under the influence of alcohol or drugs. Tests or physical proof is not required, the instructors decision is final.
Slips, trips, falls	Personal injury/ Death	Staff and participants	No personal bags/items to be placed on the floor, such items to be placed in the safe area. Participants briefed on keeping ropes tidy and any obvious trip hazards (eg tree roots).
Client error.	Personal injury/Death	Staff and participants	Clients are backed up by a safety rope. Instructor to brief and monitor participants on abseil avoiding clothing, hair or finger entrapment. Briefing and demonstration of correct body position for abseil.
Dog Feces	Disease	Participants	Staff to identify any deposits in the abseil area at the start of session and highlight to group or, using gloves/plastic bag clear the area.
Strangers	Various	Staff and Participant	If any members of the public prove to be problematical and can't be calmly asked to desist, call marina/centre for assistance or police in extremis.
Equipment Failure	Personal injury	Staff and participants	All equipment is maintained and recorded on a scheduled basis and damaged or out of date equipment is taken out of service immediately. A visual inspection must be performed before any climbing session, by lead staff member.
Clients getting stuck on abseil.	Personal injury	Participants	Staff fully trained in range of rescue techniques to deal with emergency situations. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff to ensure the necessary equipment is carried and/or available.

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Risk assessments are to be reviewed on an annual basis unless an incident occurs, which then dictates immediate review of the risk assessment.

This Review completed by: Mike Clapham

Signed: *Mike Clapham*

Date: 06/01/2026

This version checked by: Mike Clapham

Signed: *Mike Clapham*

Date: 07/01/2026

To be completed by Centre Manager:

I consider this risk assessment to be suitable to control the risks to the health and safety of both employees undertaking the tasks involved and any other person who may be affected by the activities.

Name: Mike Clapham

Signed: *Mike Clapham*

Date of next review: 06/01/2027