

Risk Assessment



Southampton University Mountaineering Club and its members recognise and accept the BMC Participation Statement:

"Climbing, hill walking and mountaineering are activities with a danger of personal injury or death. Participants in these activities should be aware of and accept these risks and be responsible for their own actions and involvement."

Activity/Task	Traditonal Climbing
Assessor (Position)	Jessie Brice (Safety)
Date	10/08/2018

Activity Description	Climbing using leader placed protection.
Additional Notes	

All risk assessments are to be checked and signed off by the Club's Safety Secretary and President (or Vice President if necessary), except where either of these persons is the assessor in which case the other must still check and sign. Completed risk assessments should be held by the club and where necessary by the Student Activities Office in SUSU.

Checked by (Position)	Tom Mackie (President)
Date	19/03/2019
Checked by (Position)	Other Committee member relevant to the Risk Assessment
Date	19/03/2019

	Inherent Risk		Residual Risk
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Hazard	Likelihood (1-5)	Severity (1-5)	Risk	Controls	Likelihood (1-5)	Severity (1-5)	Risk
Loose rock falling from height, this could lead to mild to severe impact, causing injuries, especially to head.	3	4	High	Visual inspection of crag made prior to climbing, to ensure rock is safe for climbing. Care to be taken during climb to prevent loose rocks from being pulled off, or loose rocks being dislodged. At the top of the climb care should be taken to avoid kicking stones over the crag. 'Below' to be shouted if any object of any size is knocked down. Particular care taken to notes in guide books and UKC in regard to loose rock. Avoid climbing in areas known for loose rock where possible. Helmets to be worn at all times near the crag.	3	2	Low
Incorrectly placed gear, leading to long run outs and potential for ground falls. Could lead to severe impact injury and death.	4	4	High	Do not let any member lead a route who is not competent at placing gear. All members before leading must have placed gear at ground level that is deemed secure and safe by an experienced member. Members should climb routes appropriate to their ability, accounting for the relative safety of the route (in terms of gear placements) to allow for more comfortable gear placement and a reduced likelihood of a fall occurring.	2	3	Low
Failure to provide a safe belay leading to a ground fall, severe impact injuries or death.	3	4	High	Supervise all new members whilst belaying until they are clearly competent and confident. Until then make sure another club member is holding the dead rope as a back-up. Make sure those climbing a particularly difficult climb are being belayed by an experienced belayer. Remind all belayers to not get distracted whilst belaying.	3	3	Medium
Failure to build a secure anchor at the end of the climb, meaning that if the second falls both climbers could take a groundfall leading to severe impact injuries and death.	3	5	High	Make all anchor demonstrations show the same style of anchor so that there is no confusion. Make sure all anchors built by inexperienced members are checked by experienced ones before people are allowed to to climb on them.	2	4	Medium
Starting a climb late in the day so that it becomes dark during the climb. This could lead to improperly placed gear, becoming lost or hypothermia.	4	3	High	Make sure the trip members are aware of what time the sun will set and do not let people start climbs too close to that time. How close is to be judged on how long the climb is.	3	2	Low
Fall from height causing injury	3	4	High	Climbs completed on UIAA approved ropes. Rock protection (anchors/runners) arranged according to best common practice.	3	3	Medium
Failure of gear, leading to groundfalls resulting in severe impact injuries or death.	3	4	High	All gear to be checked for corrosion, or evidence of wear and damage prior to climbing. Periodic, thorough checks of all club gear to be completed by the Gear sec. Gear is to be bought from a reputable retailers, and must be 3 sigma rated. As per BMC guidelines, metal gear to be replaced every 10 years, soft gear every 3. Gear that has exceeded its graded use, or is suspected to be unsafe is to be retired immediately. Record to be kept of high rated UIAA falls, for all ropes.	2	3	Low
Members suffering cold/damp related illnesses or injuries, leading to hypothermia.	4	3	High	Members are responsible for ensuring they have appropriate amounts of warm kit and full waterproofs for the duration of their time climbing outside. Kit list available on the website for those unfamiliar with kit required.	2	3	Low
Remoteness and or poor access prevents or reduces the chance of retreat, increasing the risk of injury/fatigue	4	2	Medium	Remoteness and or poor access prevents or reduces the chance of retreat, increasing the risk of injury/fatigue.	3	1	Low

Fall occurring due to condition of rock, could lead to severe impact injuries or death.	4	3	High	Overall visual inspection of the crag prior to climbing to assess condition of rock to ensure it is safe for climbing. No climbing to take place during particularly rainy/icy conditions	2	3	Low
Entanglement	2	1	Low	Appropriate clothing to be worn, no jewellery to be worn.	2	3	Medium
Previous medical conditions	3	4	High	Ensure that members of climbing party are aware of any previous medical conditions, and are aware of any action that may need to be taken. Climbers participate at their own risk.	3	2	Low
Strain	2	2	Low	Appropriate warm and cool down exercises to be undertaken	1	2	low
Dehydration	2	2	Low	Drink water throughout	2	2	low