

Risk assessment & Management 2025	Single pitch climbs
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Description.

There are many sub-sports within climbing. Here we are looking at single pitch rock climbing - top / bottom rope set ups 'Single pitch' refers to a climb that can be completed without any intermediate stances, and from which the climber can safely walk off unroped from the top, or can be safely lowered to the bottom of the climb

At SAC this will typically be:

- On a mobile climbing wall
- at Stone Farm Rocks with TEEN camp
- a TREE climb with JUNIOR camp

Managing Risk Statement. Supervisors will hold the appropriate qualification for this activity (see [Minimum Qualifications document](#)). The quality and safety of sessions will be regularly reviewed with any outcomes being fed into the RA and policies. Inherent within this activity is the possibility of getting wet, tired and exposed to ambient weather conditions(see [Weather Policy](#))

Benefits. Adventure Activities provide a range of benefits (see [Education and Learning policy](#))

The Hazard, what is causing a risk?	Who might be affected	How we manage the risk
<p>Personal Injury</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inappropriate spotting whilst bouldering. • Jewellery being worn. • Climbing without shoes. • Rope burn – belayer • Rope burn – climber • Finger injuries • Swinging and bashing limbs/ head 	<p>Instructors & All Participants/Group Leaders</p>	<p>Highlight danger areas (fall areas / bouldering mats etc) during initial briefing. Climb down where possible don't jump</p> <p>Good brief and instructor vigilance – controlled movement encouraged. Wearing helmets.</p> <p>Participants should be shown how to spot correctly – this must be monitored.</p> <p>Jewellery that poses a risk must be removed or covered with tape.</p> <p>Hair tied back, loose clothing tucked away.</p>

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Signed By: Bryn Beach

Review on: Jan 2026

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		<p>Belaying will be monitored throughout the session particularly on direction change (climb to lower). In control at all times.</p> <p>Climbers coached in correct position for lowers – not holding rope from belayer to top anchor, not jumping etc</p> <p>Climbers are not to use bolts / hangers / quickdraws in any way to climb.</p>
<p>Falls from height</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Incorrect harness fitting <p>Incorrect belaying</p>		<p>Instructor to physically check all aspects of the safety chain before each climb – once participants are able to buddy check correctly (multiple sessions) then the instructor is to monitor this check.</p> <p>Instruction on safe and appropriate belaying technique to be provided - instructor to monitor.</p> <p>Instructors to work within qualification remit.</p>
<p>Stuck climber</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Climber on a ledge refusing to descend Climber unable to go up / down – leg / arm caught on or in a feature. 		<p>Route choice – choose routes that are suitable for the group. Not likely in an indoor setting!</p> <p>Close supervision to avoid, physical presence to pull on rope to help back on to wall to sort.</p>
<p>Equipment dropped from height.</p>	<p>Anyone at the bottom of the climb</p>	<p>Clients kept at a distance from the wall.</p>

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		No loose items / bags / phones in pockets to be climbed with.
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Specific assessments

Mobile Climbing Wall - Stability Uneven Ground or high winds	All	Weather Forecast checked at the beginning of the day. Tower only 'up' with member of staff present. Ground conditions checked and monitored during events.
Climbing Walls at DLP Sharp edges (sides and footings). Loose Holds	Participants	To be monitored and protected where necessary. Brief group of potential, avoid / report and tighten ASAP.
Mobile Climbing Wall Access and Egress		Access/Egress to be inspected before hand by Andy Camis
Falling / dead branches Loose or dead branches.		Visual and physical inspection during set up Instructor to climb (being belayed) to physically check climb
Boulder Traverse wall at DLP Uneven hard ground / falling awkwardly (head/limbs). Loose Holds Spotter hand/finger injury	Everyone Participant Participant	Good briefing and encouragement, staying low, down climb. Instructor vigilance, monitoring and coaching of spotting and support. Wear Helmet. Brief group of potential, avoid / report and tighten ASAP. No harnesses to be worn. Good spotting technique taught and coached (braced stance, alert, not catching / supporting down).

Operating Procedures

Before

- Check medical / consent forms.

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- Instructor to be familiar with activity RA – specifically any site specific notes.
- Check the weather forecast – does your plan still work.
- Check if there any venue restrictions (bird ban / road closures / rockfall)
- Instructor to ensure correct kit is available for the venue / group.
- Instructor to inspect all kit to ensure it is usable.
- If residential course ensure the group know where to go / park etc.

During

- Clear briefing to highlight risks, safety measures and expectations.
- Any assistants / staff to briefed on their role.
- Session delivered within instructors NGB remit / inhouse training / experience and accounting for the weather / group ability.

After

- Return kit.
- Inform SAC of any damages or loss.
- Inform course leader of any issues with group / venue to assist with planning for future.

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