

# The Christian Adventure Centre

## Inspiring Growth Through Adventure

### OFF SITE Activity Risk assessments


January 2026



Date	Review Date	Person completing/reviewing RA	Signature
6th January 2026	January 2027	Jon Holden – Centre Manager	<i>Jon Holden</i>


## Risk Assessments

- ☐ Participant and Public Safety
- ☐ Gorge Walking
- ☐ Caving (Symonds Yat)
- ☐ Climbing (Symonds Yat)
- ☐ Abseil (Symonds Yat)
- ☐ Abseil (Stoney Green)
- ☐ Canoeing (Mallards Pike)
- ☐ Raft Building (Mallards Pike)
- ☐ Walking (Forest Tracks)
- ☐ Biking (Forests Tracks)
- ☐ Bushcraft (Forest Area Surrounding The Centre)
- ☐ Wild Boar
- ☐ Mountain Walking


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Topic	Participant and Public Safety
Time/Location	During any Viney Hill Christian adventure centre activities
Brief Description	Ensuring the safety of the Staff, Participants and Public who could be injured or affected by activities provided by VHCAC.
Main Priority Hazards	Group behaviour/ management. Improper use of equipment Equipment damage or failing Location hazards (Cliffs, falling rocks, water) Medical scenarios Correct instruction General safety considerations. Liability and insurance
Nearest Telephone	Instructors mobile, location dependant see individual risk assessments.
Nearest Hospital	Minor injuries: Forest of Dean Community Hospital, Steam Mills Rd, Cinderford GL14 3HY, 0300 4212121 Major injuries: Gloucester Royal Hospital, Great Western Road, Glos, GL1 3NN 0300 4222222

Hazard	Measure to reduce risk
Group behaviour/ management. Improper use of equipment Equipment damage or failing Location hazards (Cliffs, falling rocks, water) Medical scenarios Correct instruction General safety considerations. Liability and insurance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Safety brief to be given by a trained/ qualified instructor.</li> <li>• All participants to be made aware of the risks of the environment.</li> <li>• Instructor/adult supervision always to ensure safety rules are followed.</li> <li>• First aid trained staff to be always present when running sessions.</li> <li>• Sessions planned the ability level of the participants.</li> <li>• All instructors hold an appropriate qualification and or inhouse training to run sessions.</li> <li>• Emergency contacts and medical forms are available for every person participating in activities.</li> <li>• Public liability insurance up to 10 million is provided by the centre for all instructor running activities.</li> <li>• Equipment checked before and after session by a qualified instructor and also have a 6-month annual check for safety and provision of use.</li> <li>• Late back and lost procedure in place with a centre for groups offsite.</li> <li>• Inhouse training with all staff to go through operating procedures and risk assessments annually or when appropriate changes are necessary.</li> </ul>


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Activity	Gorge walking
Location	Gorge walking takes place at Cwm Dwyr
Instructor Qualifications	Minimum qualification is the SPA/RCI + Site Induction
Guidebook	N/A
Brief Description	<p>The Gorge walk takes place at Clydach Gorge (Cwm Dwyr). The gorge itself presents no major hazards and easy escape routes on both sides of the gorge due to the shallow angle of formation.</p> <p>Rope work involves simple hoists or climbs depending upon the ability and age of the participants. The areas where rope work is needed is free of all obstructions from the bottom and top of all climbs.</p> <p>Weather conditions need to be checked prior to the commencement of the activity and a dynamic visual inspection once on site.</p>
Main Priority Hazards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Rocks falling from above during the session and walk in.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Accidental slip into deep water</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Slippery approach due to current weather conditions</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Hair and jewellery may get caught in the equipment.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Participants falling from the top of the climbs.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Harness, buckle and knot not done up correctly.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Participants may 'freeze' on ledges, not being able to proceed or return.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Participants at the bottom of the climbs in the fall zone of equipment, rope, rocks, etc.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Walking on road.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Extreme weather</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Health and fitness.</li> </ul>
Nearest telephone	Instructor Mobile
Nearest hospital	<p>Minor injuries: Abergavenny, Neville Hall Hospital</p> <p>Major injuries: Abergavenny, Neville Hall Hospital</p>
Hazard	Measure to reduce the risk
Rocks falling from above during the session and walk in.	<input type="checkbox"/> All participants to wear a CE approved climbing helmet at all times.
Accidental slip into deep water	<input type="checkbox"/> Get participants to 'buddy up.' Point out dangers on the approach followed by close supervision.
Slippery in gorge and on approach.	<input type="checkbox"/> Ensure all participants are wearing appropriate footwear with a good tread and that shoelaces are adequately fastened.
Hair and jewellery may get caught in the equipment	<input type="checkbox"/> People with long hair must have it tied back and tucked away; jewellery and watches must be removed before the session commences.
Participants falling from the top of the climbs	<input type="checkbox"/> Make sure participants are out of the way once they are at the top of the climbs. If necessary, use a rope to make a visual barrier across the gorge.
Harness, buckle and knot not done up correctly	<input type="checkbox"/> Check each participant's harness, buckle, knot and equipment.
Hair and jewellery may get caught in equipment	<input type="checkbox"/> People with long hair must have it tied back and tucked away. Jewellery and watches must be removed before the session commences. Rig the climbs so that they can be easily converted into hauling systems if appropriate.
Participants may 'freeze' on ledges, not being able to proceed or return.	<input type="checkbox"/> All of the climbs to be rigged so that the route followed should be free of such obstructions.
Participants at the bottom of the climbs in the fall zone of equipment, rope, rocks, etc.	<input type="checkbox"/> Get all of the participants to stand in a safe place at the bottom of the climb.
Slips, trip and falls	Adequate footwear to be worn, with good tread. Shoe fastened correctly.
Extreme weather	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> All participants to dress appropriately to the current weather conditions.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Check weather conditions before the activity and water levels on site.</li> </ul>
Meeting walkers, horse riders and mountain bikers	Participants advised to treat these with respect and if necessary to step from path until passed.
Walking on or near roads.	Participants walk Single File. Walk towards the traffic.

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Activity	Caving
Location	Symonds Yat SN 563158 (Pinnacle cave, C2, C3-main chamber only), Doward (Pancake Caves)
Instructor Qualification	LCLA 1
Guidebook/Further Information	Caves of South Wales, Tim Stratford; Caves of the South Eastern Outcrop, Tony Oldham.
Brief Description	All of the caves to be visited are generally horizontal in nature with no major hazards or obstacles to overcome. Most of the caves are at the bottom of the main climbing area of the Symonds Yat area. The caves are approached from the main Symonds Yat car park. This risk assessment covers all the caves to be visited with particular emphasis on Pinnacle cave.
Approach	The recommended approach to the caves is via Introductory Rocks, following the bottom of the cliff towards the Pinnacle.
Main Priority Hazards	Rocks falling from above during the approach to the cave; Route to the cave can be hazardous due to wet slippery rock/wood.
Nearest Telephone	Symonds Yat NGR 565 156 – Yat Rock RSPB car park.
Nearest Hospital	Minor injuries: Forest of Dean Community Hospital, Steam Mills Rd, Cinderford GL14 3HY, 0300 4212121 Major injuries: Gloucester Royal Hospital, Great Western Road, Glos, GL1 3NN 0300 4222222

Hazard	Measure to Reduce The Hazard
Rocks falling from above during the approach to the cave	All participants to wear approved caving helmets from the car park until they return from the caving session.
Climbers on the rock, rope on the ground	The instructor to communicate with the climbers for the best moment for the group to pass (e.g. next runner). Participants to avoid touching any of the climber's equipment.
Slippery approach due to weather conditions	Ensure all participants are wearing shoes with good tread ideally walking/wellington boots.
Slippery approach due to current weather conditions	Where necessary rig a handline or assisted handline.
Group splitting up and getting lost	Prior to entering the cave give briefing with regards to the group management. Give simple instructions on the route through the cave.
Individuals getting 'stuck' within the cave	Tailor the trip to suit the needs of the largest individual of the group.
Slips, trip and falls	Adequate footwear to be worn, with good tread. Shoe fastened correctly.
Extreme weather	All participants to dress appropriately to the current weather conditions.
Forest Operations such as: Tree felling Clearing work Other work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Research Forest locations in advance and take note of relevant signage and commencement of forestry works.</li> <li>Keep away from machinery/forestry operations.</li> <li>In doubt call the Forestry Commission for help/guidance</li> </ul>
Meeting walkers, horse riders and mountain bikers	Participants advised to treat these with respect and if necessary to step from path until passed.
Wild Boar	See separate Risk Assessment for Wild Boar

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Activity	Climbing
Location	Symonds Yat SN 563158
Instructor Qualification	Minimum of Single Pitch Award/RCI, persons assisting to have CWI training at a minimum
Guidebook/Further Information	Symonds Yat, Climbers Club.
Brief Description	All of the climbs are rigged as top ropes with the belay at the bottom. All of the climbs will be treated as single pitch climbs, where the participants are actively encouraged to help to belay each other. In all but exceptional circumstances will the participants take an active role in the belaying and lowering of participants
Approach	The recommended approach to the climbs is via several gulleys/approved routes to the bottom of the cliff. Prior knowledge of the area is a requisite before commencement of a rock related activity
Main Priority Hazards	Rocks falling from above during the session and walk in; Route to the climb can be hazardous due to wet slippery rocks/wood.
Nearest Telephone	NGR 565 156 – Yat Rock RSPB car park.
Nearest Hospital	Minor injuries: Forest of Dean Community Hospital, Steam Mills Rd, Cinderford GL14 3HY, 0300 4212121 Major injuries: Gloucester Royal Hospital, Great Western Road, Glos, GL1 3NN 0300 4222222

Hazard	Measure to Reduce The Hazard
Rocks falling from the cliff during the session and approach	All participants to wear a CE approved climbing helmet from the car park until they return from the climbing session.
Meeting climbers on the rock, rope on the ground etc.	The instructor to communicate with the climbers for the best moment to pass (e.g. next runner). Participants to avoid touching any of the climber's equipment.
Slippery approach due to weather conditions	Ensure all participants are wearing sensible footwear with a good tread.
Equipment correctly fitted. Knot/Carabiner correctly attached.	Instructor to check each participant's harness and carabiner or knot (figure of eight knot with a stopper) are correctly attached.
Participants falling from the wall	Ensure that the belay rope is always kept tight.
Hair and jewellery may get caught in equipment, cracks etc.	People with long hair must have it tied back and tucked away, jewellery etc., must be removed before the session commences.
Participants may not belay correctly, potentially causing injury to the climber	Give a thorough briefing on how to belay correctly. Instructor supervision always during the session.
Participants may freeze on ledges, not being able to proceed or return	All of the climbs should be chosen and rigged to appropriate levels of the group and should where possible be free of ledges.
Slips, trip and falls	Adequate footwear to be worn, with good tread. Shoe fastened correctly.
Extreme weather	All participants to dress appropriately to the current weather conditions.
Meeting walkers, horse riders and mountain bikers	Participants advised to treat these with respect and if necessary to step from path until passed.
Forest Operations such as: Tree felling Clearing work Other work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Research Forest locations in advance and take note of relevant signage and commencement of forestry works.</li> <li>Keep away from machinery/forestry operations.</li> <li>In doubt call the Forestry Commission for help/guidance</li> </ul>
Wild Boar	See separate Risk Assessment for Wild Boar

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Activity	Abseiling - Symonds Yat
Location	Symonds Yat: SN 563158
Instructor Qualification	Minimum of SPA/RCI persons assisting should have RCI training
Guidebook/Further Information	Symonds Yat, Climbers Club (currently out of print).
Brief Description	At Symonds Yat there are a number of abseil possibilities.
Approach	Follow the forest tracks from the car park to the required abseil location.
Main Priority Hazards	Rocks falling from above during the session; Route to the abseil can be hazardous due to wet slippery rock/wood; Persons falling from the top of the abseil.
Nearest Telephone	NGR 565 156 Yat Rock RSPB car park.
Nearest Hospital	Minor injuries: Forest of Dean Community Hospital, Steam Mills Rd, Cinderford GL14 3HY, 0300 4212121 Major injuries: Gloucester Royal Hospital, Great Western Road, Glos, GL1 3NN 0300 4222222

Hazard	Measure to Reduce The Hazard
Rocks/Objects falling from the cliff during the session	All participants to wear an approved CE climbing helmet from the car park until they return from the abseil session.
Slippery approach due to the current weather conditions	Ensure all participants are wearing sensible footwear with a good tread.
Participants falling from the top of the cliff	Keep all participants in a safe place away from the cliff edge. Where necessary make a pen or secure participants to a safety line.
Equipment correctly fitted. Knot/Carabiner correctly attached.	Instructor to check each participant's harness and carabiner or knot (figure of eight knot with a stopper) are correctly attached.
Hair and jewellery may get caught in equipment, cracks etc.	People with long hair must have it tied back and tucked away. Jewellery must be removed before the session commences.
Hair, clothing, skin etc. getting caught in the descender	Rig the abseil as a releasable system. <b>Always</b> use a safety rope.
Participants at the bottom of the abseil in the fall zone of equipment, rope, rocks etc.	Get all of the participants to stand in a safe place at the bottom of the cliff. Possibly making a pen to keep the group together in a safe area
Meeting climbers on the rock, rope on the ground etc.	The instructor to communicate with the climbers for the best moment to pass (e.g. next runner). Participants to avoid touching any of the climber's equipment.
Slips, trip and falls	Adequate footwear to be worn, with good tread. Shoe fastened correctly.
Extreme weather	All participants to dress appropriately to the current weather conditions.
Meeting walkers, and mountain bikers	Participants advised to treat these with respect and if necessary to step from path until passed.
Wild Boar	See separate Risk Assessment for Wild Boar

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Activity	Abseil - Stoney Green
Location	Stoney Green Quarry (NGR 645 086)
Instructor Qualification	Minimum of Single Pitch Award
Guidebook/Further Information	Wye Valley, Climbers Club.
Brief Description	The abseil takes place in a small disused quarry.
Approach	Follow the rough track until you reach the base of the main cliff.
Main Priority Hazards	Rocks falling from above during the session; Route to the abseil can be hazardous due to wet slippery rock/wood; Persons falling from the top of the abseil.
Nearest Telephone	NGR 633 093. – The Barracks.
Nearest Hospital	Minor injuries: Forest of Dean Community Hospital, Steam Mills Rd, Cinderford GL14 3HY, 0300 4212121 Major injuries: Gloucester Royal Hospital, Great Western Road, Glos, GL1 3NN 0300 4222222


Hazard	Measure to Reduce The Hazard
Rocks/Objects falling from the cliff during the session	All participants to wear an approved CE climbing helmet from the car park until they return from the abseil session.
Slippery approach due to the current weather conditions	Ensure all participants are wearing sensible footwear with a good tread. Rig a handline/assisted handline to reach the top of the cliff, if appropriate.
Participants falling from the top of the cliff	Keep all participants on the outside of the perimeter fence until called for.
Equipment correctly fitted. Knot/Carabiner correctly attached.	Instructor to check each participant's harness and carabiner or knot (figure of eight knot with a stopper) are correctly attached.
Hair and jewellery may get caught in equipment, cracks etc.	People with long hair must have it tied back and tucked away. Jewellery must be removed before the session commences.
Hair, clothing, skin etc. getting caught in the descender	Rig the abseil as a releasable system. Always use a safety rope.
Participants at the bottom of the abseil in the fall zone of equipment, rope, rocks etc.	Get all of the participants to stand in a safe place at the bottom of the cliff. Possibly making a pen to keep the group together in a safe area
Walking on or near roads.	Participants walk Single File. Walk towards the traffic.
Slips, trip and falls	Adequate footwear to be worn, with good tread. Shoe fastened correctly.
Extreme weather	All participants to dress appropriately to the current weather conditions.
Meeting walkers, and mountain bikers	Participants advised to treat these people with respect and if necessary to step from path until passed.
Forest Operations such as: Tree felling Clearing work Other work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Research Forest locations in advance and take note of relevant signage and commencement of forestry works.</li> <li>Keep away from machinery/forestry operations.</li> <li>In doubt call the Forestry Commission for help/guidance</li> </ul>
Wild Boar	See separate Risk Assessment for Wild Boar

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Activity	Open Canoeing – Placid Water
Location	Mallards Pike (NGR 638 093)
Instructor Qualification	Minimum of Paddle Sports Instructor Award
Guidebook/Info.	N/A
Brief Description	Mallards Pike Lake is a large freshwater lake, with easy access both on and off the water with no more than 30m from the side at any point. The lake is normally sheltered from wind.
Main Priority Hazards	Risk of drowning; Canoe could be blown into the middle of the lake; Risk of hypothermia.
Nearest Telephone	Go ape/ Café Phone/ NGR 633 093. – The Barracks.
Nearest Hospital	Minor injuries: Forest of Dean Community Hospital, Steam Mills Rd, Cinderford GL14 3HY, 0300 4212121 Major injuries: Gloucester Royal Hospital, Great Western Road, Glos, GL1 3NN 0300 4222222

Hazard	Measure to Reduce The Hazard
Risk of drowning	All participants to wear an approved buoyancy aid before entering the water. The instructor must give a briefing on the capsize drill.
Risk of drowning	The instructor must be in a location where they can see the whole of the group and be within easy access of a canoe. Instructors must show good management skills in group control and to keep the canoes together.
Group spreading out over the lake, instructor not fully aware where individuals are	The initial briefing set a boundary to help maintain good control over the group as a whole.
Risk of hypothermia	Ensure that all participants are dressed appropriately for the current weather conditions. Avoid prolonged exposure in the water.
Slips, trip and falls	Adequate footwear to be worn, with good tread. Shoe fastened correctly.
Meeting walkers, horse riders and mountain bikers	Participants advised to treat these with respect and if necessary to step from path until passed
Dogs	Participants warned to neither approach nor run from dogs.
Extreme weather	All participants to dress appropriately to the current weather conditions.
Forest Operations such as: Tree felling Clearing work Other work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Research Forest locations in advance and take note of relevant signage and commencement of forestry works.</li> <li>Keep away from machinery/forestry operations.</li> <li>In doubt call the Forestry Commission for help/guidance</li> </ul>

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Activity	Raft Building
Instructor Qualification	Minimum of Paddle Sports Instructor award with in-house training or UKCC Level 1 with in-house training and remote supervision under Level 2. UKCC Level 2 Preferred
Location	Placid Water - Mallards Pike Lane (NGR638 093)
Guidebook/Further Information	N/A
Brief Description	Mallards Pike Lake is a large freshwater lake, with easy access both on and off the water. The lake is normally sheltered from wind.
Main Priority Hazards	Risk of drowning; Raft could be blown into the middle of the lake; Risk of hypothermia. Risk of entrapment between the participant and the raft.
Nearest Telephone	Go ape/ Café Phone/ NGR 633 093. – The Barracks.
Nearest Hospital	Minor injuries: Forest of Dean Community Hospital, Steam Mills Rd, Cinderford GL14 3HY, 0300 4212121 Major injuries: Gloucester Royal Hospital, Great Western Road, Glos, GL1 3NN 0300 4222222

Hazard	Measure to Reduce The Hazard
Risk of drowning	All participants to wear an approved buoyancy aid and helmet before entering the water. The instructor must check the construction of the raft to make sure that participants cannot become trapped.
Risk of drowning	The instructor must have immediate access to a safety canoe ready on the water before the raft is launched.
Raft being blown away from the shore into the middle of the lake	If possible, launch the raft on the windward side. The instructor to carry a line to tow or tether the raft if required.
Group spreading out over the lake, instructor not fully aware where individuals are	The initial briefing set a boundary to help maintain good control over the group as a whole.
Risk of hypothermia	Ensure that all participants are dressed appropriately for the current weather conditions. Avoid prolonged exposure in the water.
Risk of entrapment	Instructor to brief the group about avoiding putting legs and arms between the barrels/wood/ropes. Instructor to carry a knife for this eventuality.
Slips, trip and falls	Adequate footwear to be worn, with good tread. Shoe fastened correctly.
Meeting walkers, horse riders and mountain bikers	Participants advised to treat these people with respect and if necessary to step from path until passed
Dogs	Participants warned to neither approach nor run from dogs.
Extreme weather	All participants to dress appropriately to the current weather conditions.
Forest Operations such as: Tree felling Clearing work Other work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Research Forest locations in advance and take note of relevant signage and commencement of forestry works.</li> <li>Keep away from machinery/forestry operations.</li> <li>In doubt call the Forestry Commission for help/guidance</li> </ul>

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Activity	Hiking / Walking/Orienteering
Location	Forest of dean tracks and trails
Instructor Qualification	Walking group leader qualification or above to lead, with exception of within 1.5 KM radius of the centre with inhouse training on known routes and local knowledge of area.
Guidebook/Further Information	OS Map
Brief Description	All participants are encouraged to work together, help each other, share in map and compass reading and enjoy and care for the mountain environment.
Main Priority Hazards	weather Ankle injuries due to wet, slippery or muddy paths. Exhaustion, Dehydration, Heat Stroke and Hypothermia
Nearest Telephone	Mobile phones will be used. Viney Hill – In the Centre Common locations Christchurch – ChristChurch Campsite/ Mobile Mallards pike – Go ape/Café/Mobile Beechenhurst- Café/ Mobile Other – Mobile
Nearest Hospital	Minor injuries: Forest of Dean Community Hospital, Steam Mills Rd, Cinderford GL14 3HY, 0300 4212121 Major injuries: Gloucester Royal Hospital, Great Western Road, Glos, GL1 3NN 0300 4222222

Hazard	Measure to Reduce The Hazard
Getting lost	Qualified and trained staff.
Slips, trip and falls	Adequate footwear to be worn, with good tread. Shoe fastened correctly.
Exhaustion	Route planned to suit abilities of group, regular food and drink breaks to be taken
Dehydration	Ensure regular and adequate fluids are taken whilst walking and before leaving
Heat Stroke	Correct clothing to be worn, sunscreen to be used as appropriate
Hypothermia	Correct clothing to be worn, change of clothes to be taken if appropriate.
Extreme weather	All participants to dress appropriately to the current weather conditions.
Meeting walkers, horse riders and mountain bikers	Participants advised to treat other users with respect and if necessary, to step from path until passed
Walking at night	Instructors and groups carry torches to light up routes and hazards.
Dogs	Participants warned to neither approach nor run from dogs.
Getting lost	A route plan of the area used is left with an appropriate person.
Forest Operations such as: Tree felling Clearing work Other work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Research Forest locations in advance and take note of relevant signage and commencement of forestry works.</li> <li>Keep away from machinery/forestry operations.</li> </ul> In doubt call the Forestry Commission for help/guidance
Wild Boar	See separate Risk Assessment for Wild Boar

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<b>Activity</b>	<b>All Terrain Biking</b>
Location	Within the Forest of Dean
Instructor Qualification	Any trail bike leader course (OTC, MIAS, MBLA etc.) knowledge of area.
Guidebook/Info.	N/A
Brief Description	Cycling on cycle paths and recognised off track routes to utilise the abilities of the specific group to the full
Main Priority Hazards	Falling off and losing control; Head injuries Traffic when using public roads. Slippery/muddy paths Animals (dogs, sheep, deer etc.) Walkers, horse riders and other cyclists.
Nearest Telephone	Mobile phones to be used
Nearest Hospital	Minor injuries: Forest of Dean Community Hospital, Steam Mills Rd, Cinderford GL14 3HY, 0300 4212121 Major injuries: Gloucester Royal Hospital, Great Western Road, Glos, GL1 3NN 0300 4222222

<b>Hazard</b>	<b>Measure to Reduce The Hazard</b>
Falling off and losing control	All participants advised on correct use of gears and brakes, being aware of their surroundings and not riding beyond their capabilities. Supervision.
Head injuries	Cycle helmets must be worn whilst cycling
Traffic when using public roads	Ensure adherence to Highway code and cycling no more than two abreast
Slippery/muddy paths	Warn of danger and slow speed to suit the surface
Slips, trip and falls	Adequate footwear to be worn, with good tread. Shoe fastened correctly.
Meeting walkers, horse riders and mountain bikers	Participants advised to treat these with respect and if necessary to step from path until passed
Animals	Participants warned to neither approach nor run from animals.
Extreme weather	All participants to dress appropriately to the current weather conditions.
Forest Operations such as: Tree felling Clearing work Other work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Research Forest locations in advance and take note of relevant signage and commencement of forestry works.</li> <li>Keep away from machinery/forestry operations.</li> <li>In doubt call the Forestry Commission for help/guidance</li> </ul>
Wild Boar	See separate Risk Assessment for Wild Boar

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Activity	Bush craft and Shelter Building
Location	Viney Hill Christian Adventure Centre SN 654068 and in the woodlands within a 2 Km radius of the Centre, Viney Hill.
Guidebook/Further Information	N/A
Brief Description	<p>Bush craft introduces the participants on what to eat, how to find water, how to build a shelter, and how to make a fire. Its main function is for the group to discover more about our natural environment, and to understand how we can interact with it and sustain it. Suitable for all ages and abilities. More advanced sessions are available on special request.</p> <p>Fires and advanced bushcraft skill, including the use of bushcraft knives are to be strictly on VHCAC land only and not to be practised on Forestry land.</p>
Approach	The activity takes place just inside Viney Hill Christian Adventure Centre on the wild campsite and in the local woods
Main Priority Hazards	<p>Slippery nature of the woodland environment, especially after heavy rain</p> <p>Participants falling into the fire.</p> <p>Participants not being 'fire aware'.</p> <p>Shelters falling</p> <p>Injury from sticks being waved around/moved or broken.</p>
Nearest Telephone	Staff Office, Viney Hill Christian Adventure Centre
Nearest Hospital	<p>Minor injuries: Forest of Dean Community Hospital, Steam Mills Rd, Cinderford GL14 3HY, 0300 4212121</p> <p>Major injuries: Gloucester Royal Hospital, Great Western Road, Glos, GL1 3NN 0300 4222222</p>

Hazard	Measure to Reduce The Hazard
Slippery nature of the Forest environment	Ensure that all participants wear appropriate footwear with good tread. When approaching steep ground inform the group of the best way to ascend/descend, get the group to help each other out.
Slips, trip and falls	Adequate footwear to be worn, with good tread. Shoe fastened correctly.
Fire hazards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure that all participants with long hair have it tied back so it is well away from the fire.</li> <li>• Ensure that when participants are around the fire they are not bending over the fire.</li> <li>• Ensure that participants are not wearing clothing that is highly flammable.</li> <li>• Ensure that there is a bucket of water next to the fire.</li> </ul>
Improper use of the fire steels	Give a good briefing on the correct use of the fire steels to ensure that all participants are kneeling over the fire steel before striking it.
Shelter falling/ Injury from sticks being waved around/moved or broken.	Supervision at all times by instructor/adult to ensure behaviour is controlled and safety briefing given about consideration to moving and building shelters from natural materials.
Hair and jewellery may get caught in branches	People with long hair must have it tied back and tucked away, jewellery and watches etc. must be removed before the session commences.
The shelter may fall on participants once inside.	Ensure that the shelter is of a sturdy construction before the participants go inside the shelter.
Forest Operations such as: Tree felling Clearing work Other work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Research Forest locations in advance and take note of relevant signage and commencement of forestry works.</li> <li>• Keep away from machinery/forestry operations.</li> <li>• In doubt call the Forestry Commission for help/guidance</li> </ul>
Wild Boar	See separate Risk Assessment for Wild Boar
Extreme weather	All participants to dress appropriately to the current weather conditions.

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6th January 2026	January 2027	Jon Holden – Centre Manager	

Activity	Coming across Wild Boar on activities in the Forest of Dean
Location	Forest of Dean
Guidebook/Further Information	N/A
Brief Description	In the Forest of Dean, we do use the woodland for various peaceful activities and as such we could come across Wild Boar
Main Priority Hazards	Injury
Nearest Telephone	Instructor mobile
Nearest Hospital	Minor injuries: Forest of Dean Community Hospital, Steam Mills Rd, Cinderford GL14 3HY, 0300 4212121 Major injuries: Gloucester Royal Hospital, Great Western Road, Glos, GL1 3NN 0300 4222222

Hazard	Measure to Reduce The Hazard
Persons attacked by a wild boar	<p>Wild boar sightings are becoming more common in the Forest but are still rare and special occasions. Wild boars are normally secretive and nocturnal if they are not interfered with and there are very few documented cases of boar attacking people in Europe or elsewhere. If you do see wild boar we suggest you take the following advice:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If you see wild boar, do not approach them; if possible leave the area by the same route you approached by, or make a detour giving the animals a wide berth.</li> <li>• Avoid areas of dense undergrowth or thick cover that sows favour as resting and breeding places.</li> <li>• Avoid getting between a sow and her young.</li> <li>• A disturbed sow may adopt a face on, rigid stance and snort, this is defensive threat behaviour, and the best action is to back off.</li> </ul>

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<b>Activity</b>	<b>Mountain Walking</b>
Location	All mountainous areas of Britain (summer Conditions only)
Instructor Qualification	ML/WGL (within Remit) to lead
Guidebook/Further Information	OS Map
Brief Description	All participants are encouraged to work together, help each other, share in map and compass reading and enjoy and care for the mountain environment.
Main Priority Hazards	Mountain weather Ankle injuries due to wet, slippery or muddy paths. Exhaustion, Dehydration, Heat Stroke and Hypothermia
Nearest Telephone	Mobile phones will be used
Nearest Hospital	To be researched prior to event.

<b>Hazard</b>	<b>Measure to Reduce The Hazard</b>
Wild Horses	Group to stay clear.
Getting lost	Qualified and trained staff.
Slips, trip and falls	Adequate footwear to be worn, with good tread. Shoe fastened correctly.
Exhaustion	Route planned to suit abilities of group, regular food and drink breaks to be taken
Dehydration	Ensure regular and adequate fluids are taken whilst walking and before leaving
Heat Stroke	Correct clothing to be worn, sunscreen to be used as appropriate
Hypothermia	Correct clothing to be worn, change of clothes to be taken if appropriate.
Extreme weather	All participants to dress appropriately to the current weather conditions.
Meeting walkers, horse riders and mountain bikers	Participants advised to treat other users with respect and if necessary, to step from path until passed
Dogs	Participants warned to neither approach nor run from dogs.
Getting lost	A route plan of the area used is left with an appropriate person.

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