

SITE SPECIFIC GORGE WALKING RISK ASSESSMENT

SYCHRYD GORGE – PONTNEDDFECHAN

FORM COMPLETED BY: IEUAN STARKS. UPDATED: 10/05/2017

REVIEW: Periodically (unless incident or near miss initiates review)

ADDRESS: Dinas Rock car park, Pontneddfechan, Neath SA11 5NU. Ordnance Survey map OL12 GR 911,079

PARKING/SITE FACILITIES:

-Parking – limited car parking. Please encourage groups to meet you outside the village and to travel in the minimum number of cars. Parking can be arranged at the village hall by arrangement. Minibuses are encouraged as they offer more people per parking space

-Security – do not leave ANY equipment or valuables in vehicles. Glove compartment must be left open and everything removed from vehicle

-Toilets – none in the car park; if village hall is open then it has public toilets. NB public area with very little coverage

-Changing – screens have been installed and should be used to minimise public exposure

INSTRUCTOR QUALS REQUIRED: Sign off from company's Technical Advisor

SITE SUITABLE FOR: All ages and abilities. Please adapt route for group's ability and the length of the session based on fitness and water/air temperatures.

LOCAL ACCESS AGREEMENT INFO: Site is a SSSI and is used under a strict user agreement and training programme. The accompanying map must be used to ensure you are familiar with the agreed gorge access and egress points. Please ensure group refrain from any moss or plant damage while in the gorge. Stay within the normal water course of the river so as to minimise environmental impact.

WATER LEVELS INDICATORS: Each section can be accessed before being attempted using the indicators in your training. Please remember that both rivers are flash flood locations and levels may change during your session

- If there is water running over the concrete lip river left under the first bridge (Picture 1) the gorge is not to be used and an alternative activity should be arranged. If in doubt contact Senior Instructor or Company Director
- If there is water running over the river right side of the waterfall scramble (by the worm hole – Picture 2) then this must not be attempted
- If water is over the indicator rock (Picture 3 - red circle) then a dry scramble up the waterfall is possible but the water below must not be entered (Picture 2 – blue circle)
- If the water level has reached the undercut and removed the air gap, or if there is constant flow of water from the pool causing a risk when swimming across the pool, then the pool area should not be used (Pictures 3&4)

SPECIFIC ADDITIONAL EQUIPMENT REQUIRED: Standard gorge equipment

MOBILE RECEPTION: Good in the wider area, limited within the gorge - seek height for signal

EMERGENCY EVACUATION: Evacuation down pathways to the car park. Closest ambulance access is the village hall and turning circle for the Sychryd and the gun powder works for the Mellte.

SPECIFIC SITE RISKS IDENTIFIED:

- Flash flooding – keep monitoring levels during and after rain
- No use of the routes under the geological feature by the worm hole – large stones at risk of falling
- The worm hole is not to be used for any activities – keep away from overhang
- No use of mines in the area
- Metalwork in river at various stages – ensure group are aware of additional hazards
- No use of traversing on the bridge foundations due to loose bridge stones above
- Exposure due to time spent in cold water – keep group moving
- Slipping and tripping due to poor footwear – check all foot wear for suitability

SPECIFIC SITE USE NOTES:

- Refer to Picture 8 for usable jumps, progressively marked A-D. Loonies Leap (highest jump, D) is limited to groups over the age of 16. Instructor should be at the top of jumps, directing participants. Target landing area marked with red circle in Picture 9
- No jumping from the fence line next to Loonies Leap

- The Mellte Loonies water chute is an approved activity when the instructor is able to stand above the chute, positioning clients in a safe position. The flow of water must be going in a straight line from the chute. If this is not possible then use is restricted to jump (Picture 10)
- Access across to the chute can only be done if the water flow on river left coming around the island has the rocks visible out of the water and there is no big boil at the bottom (Pictures 6&7)
- Instructor must always position themselves between the hazard and the group
- Once any individual has done a jump they must swim towards the second instructor

PICTURES:

Picture 1



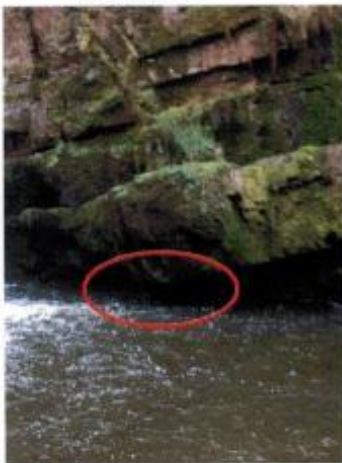
Picture 2



Picture 3



Picture 4



Picture 5



Picture 6



Picture 7



Picture 8



Picture 9



Picture 10

