

Thriftwood Scout Campsite Risk Assessment: **Cave Bus.**

Completed by Alex Kerr

Date 1/4/26

Next Review Date 1/4/2027

Hazard	Who might be harmed	Existing controls	Risk (after control measures in place)	Further Actions Required
Banging Head	Participant	All participants must wear a helmet when inside the cave bus (including entering and exiting the cave bus).	Low	Adequately controlled
Bodily injuries (Grazing, Bumps, Falls)	Participant	Participants and instructors must wear appropriate clothing (covering all limbs). Participants will stay at least 2m away from each other in the cave bus at all times. Participants to be briefed to leave space between each other on entry. Instructors / Leaders to be familiar with cave bus layout (including emergency exits and passageway) All emergency exit doors fastened from outside to stop them failing. Design of the doors make them failsafe, so that it is not possible to drop an emergency door into the cave system.	Low	Read short risk assessment to participants and ask questions to check understanding Cave bus staff to undergo regular training. Leaders to be left when they feel confident.
Injury from litter	Participant	Quarterly cleaning programme.	Low	Adequately controlled
Safety Equipment	Participant	Instructors/leaders only to allow access to participants who have: correctly fitted helmets, have suitable clothing that does not restrict clothing, do not have jewellery on (rings, earrings watches)	Low	Instructor / Leader to check helmets etc
Earrings / Jewellery	Participant	Ask participants to remove piercings, watches and jewellery if possible, offer adhesive tape to participants so they can tape down 'belly button' jewellery	Low	Staff / Instructors are NOT to look after jewellery / phones/money
Headlamp failure	Participant	Brief participants not to worry if their lights fail. Have a spare torch handy to pass to participants. Inform participants that if they are worried to shout for help and an emergency exit will be opened.	Low	Open emergency doors to allow light into passage to calm any panicking participant.
Panic / Claustrophobia	Participant	Brief participants not to panic to ask for help, describe where they are. No part of the cave is more than 5m from an exit.	Low	Show nervous participants the cave from an emergency exit so they can make an informed decision.
Entrapment / evacuation	Participant	Instructor/Leader to immediately open all hatches (allowing as much light and air in as possible). Use an available helmet light / torch to light up the passage and allow the trapped participant to see around		

Entrapment	Participant	Assist and talk participants into freeing themselves by reversing their manoeuvres. In extreme circumstances assist in freeing the participants to exit the cave where appropriate. All participants to be informed about exit doors and exiting the cave system safely. Ask removed participants to wait in a designated area.	Low	
Contraband	Participants	Instructor / leader to brief participants not to take the following inside the cave: Mobile phones, batteries, food, drink, lighters, matches or anything sharp.		
Heat / Temperature	Participants	Instructors / Leaders to be aware of temperature and be prepared to stop the activity if the temperature gets too warm. Cages fitted in top areas of bus to allow cool air to enter the system.	Low	Open all emergency doors when the cave is not in use to allow air into the system to cool it down.