

Risk assessment

Name of activity, event, and location	Use of Bishopton Scout Groups Mobile climbing wall at various locations.	Date of risk assessment	17/10/25	Name of person doing this risk assessment	David Sneddon
		Date of next review	17/10/26		

What could go wrong? What hazard have you identified? What are the risks from it?	Who is at risk?	What are you going to do about it? How are the risks already controlled? What extra controls are needed? How will they be communicated to young people and adults and remain inclusive to all needs?	Review & revise What has changed that needs to be thought about and controlled?
A hazard is something that may cause harm or damage. The risk is the harm that may occur from the hazard.	For example: young people, adult volunteers, visitors	Controls are ways of making the activity safer by removing or reducing the risk. For example, you may use a different piece of equipment or you might change the way you do the activity.	Keep checking throughout the activity in case you need to change what you're doing or even stop the activity. This is a great place to add comments which will be used as part of the review.
Structure failure (e.g. collapse or overturning) due to incorrect set up of wall	Participants, leaders, spectators	Wall to be set up in accordance with manual provided by constructor. In particular, ground conditions and overhead obstructions to be assessed before setting wall up. Manual to be available at all times when the wall is in use. Checklist to be used as part of set up which will be written based on operating manual	
Structural failure (e.g. collapse or overturning) due to component failure	Participants, leaders, spectators	Wall inspected by approved ADIPS inspector annually. Wall to receive visual check by leaders before each use. If there are any concerns about the condition of components including hydraulics, cables, structural steel framework or wooden panels, wall not to be used until further advice sought from a competent person.	
Structural failure (e.g. collapse or overturning) due to weather	Participants, leaders, spectators	Wall not to be set up when weather conditions are outwith operating limits prescribed by manufacturer. Weather forecast to be checked for duration wall is expected to be in use. Hand held wind meter available at all times wall is in use. Weather to be monitored for entire duration of use in case forecast is incorrect.	
Injury while setting up wall	Leaders	All leaders setting up wall to be trained in the set up, and follow the set up instructions in the manual and checklist. Leaders setting up wall to be aware of pinch points and finger entrapment risk areas such as when the outriggers are deployed and stowed. Leaders to ensure bottom folding panels are secure before going under the trailer to release or insert the pins holding the outriggers. Hooks/ropes are included for this purpose or another person can hold the panels.	
Fall from height due to incorrect set up of belay system	Participants, leaders.	All belay ropes will be on 2 separate anchors. All carabiners locked and double checked prior to wall being extended. Climbers to be attached to belay rope using rethreaded figure 8 knot with stopper, or a carabiner designed to prevent cross loading (such as DMM belay master), tied to the rope using a double figure 8 with stopper. All belay devices to be checked for proper set up, by a permit holder, prior to use.	
Fall from height due to failure of PPE	Participants, leaders.	All PPE receives through inspection by a competent PPE inspector every 6 months which is documented. All PPE to receive a visual inspection by a permit holder every time it is used. PPE to be stored away from any chemicals, sources of mechanical damage and out of direct sunlight. If PPE is wet, it is to be dried before being stored.	

You can find more information in the [Safety checklist for Section Volunteers](#) and at scouts.org.uk/safety

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		Drying should be away from any chemicals or sources of mechanical damage, and ideally away from direct sunlight. Any damaged PPE, or PPE that the permit holder is unsure of, will be removed from use immediately and placed in quarantine by attaching a red tag to it and placing it in the quarantine bag. A note of the damaged PPE should be made on the daily check sheet for the wall. PPE must only be returned to service from the quarantine bag by a competent PPE inspector.	
Fall from height due to misuse of PPE	Participants, leaders.	All PPE to be used in accordance with manufacturers instructions. Copies of manufacturers instructions stored with the PPE. All use of PPE to be supervised by a permit holder. PPE only to be used for its intended purpose.	
Fall from height during set up of wall	Leaders	Ladder to be used to place pins in wall during set up. Ladder to be on stable ground and either footed or secured using supplied hooks. Belay bar and belay ropes to be set up prior to wall being extended. If any work is required on top of the wall or at the belay bar after the wall is erected, the person at height must be belayed up the wall and remain on belay or be clipped in with a lanyard while at height.	
Fall from height while setting up to and while abseiling	Participants, leaders	Leader on top of wall managing abseil to be clipped in to belay bar using a lanyard designed for this purpose. One is included with the climbing wall equipment for this purpose. Participants must remain on belay while on top of the wall. They must be attached to the abseil belay system before being detached from the top rope they have climbed up on. Participants given safety briefing and instructions not to interfere with any belay system or rigging prior to climbing up to top of wall.	
Entanglement or entrapment while abseiling or belaying	Participants	Neckies, loose clothing, loose fitting gloves and large jewellery to be removed before taking part in climbing, abseiling or belaying and long hair must be tied up. This should be checked when the participant is being kitted with their PPE. All belaying to be done under the supervision of a permit holder who can intervene on the event of any issues. Abseiling to be done with a main abseil rope and 2 nd safety rope. Abseil rope to be set up using a releasable system such as a tied off Italian hitch so that the participants weight can be transferred to the safety rope in the event of any entanglement or the participant freezes. Only thick gloves which are well fitted can be used for belaying or abseiling.	
MSK injury (bumps/bruises) due to misuse of equipment	Participants, leaders.	Participants instructed not to climb off route and to stay close to their belay rope. Belayers to be paying attention and distractions around them to be minimised. Climbers instructed to walk backwards down the wall when being lowered and not to jump down. Belayers to manage speed of lower to reduce chance of any injuries. Climbers to wear helmets while climbing to protect head from injury.	
Collision between climbers or collision of climber/belayer with wall/structure	Participants, leaders	Climbers instructed to stay on their own route and not to climb on adjacent routes. Climbers to walk backwards down the wall while being lowered. Belayers to be positioned to reduce any sudden pull on them while belaying, e.g. placing back against the wall while lowering. Belayers can be supported by another person if there is a significant weight difference. Outriggers padded to reduce an injury from collision with outrigger. When a climber is on the front face, the line beside their lowering path should not be used.	

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Rope burn when belaying/abseiling	Participants, leaders.	Belayers to be paying attention at all times to reduce chance of loose rope in system. All belaying to be supervised by a permit holder and feedback on technique can be given. Gloves can be worn for belaying or abseiling but proper technique and supervision should reduce the need for these.	
Head injury: dropped object or head knock during fall	Participants, leaders, spectators	All climbers, belayers and supervisors to wear a helmet when in close proximity to the wall. In public areas, barriers to be erected around the wall to ensure no spectators come too close to the wall without a helmet. All pockets to be emptied before climbing. Any maintenance done on the wall to be done when there are minimal people in the area and all persons involved in the maintenance to wear a helmet. All tools used for maintenance to be tethered to prevent dropped objects.	
Road Risk: Collision while towing trailer	All road users	Trailer to be regularly checked including the condition and function of the lights, tyres, wheel nuts and brakes. Only drivers with experience driving trailers to tow the wall due to its size and weight. Wall only to be towed by a vehicle with sufficient towing capacity. Trailer must not be towed with the cover on it.	
Road Risk: trailer becoming detached from towing vehicle	All road users	Condition of hitch and break away cable to be checked before every journey. Break away cable should be attached to solid part of towing vehicle, ideally a separate part from the tow hitch if possible. Hitch should be checked to ensure it is fully secured prior to pulling away. If there are any concerns about the condition of any part of the trailer it should not be towed until advice sought.	
Electric risks: 12v system and battery charging.	Leaders	All electrics checked as part of ADIPS inspection. Electrics also to receive visual inspection before every use. Battery should only be charged when the wall is attended in case of fire. Adequate ventilation should be ensured while battery is charging. Battery to be secured in the trailer and must not be loose. The battery can be charged while the wall is in use provided the cable is routed to not present a hazard to the users. Battery switch turned off when wall is not being set up or packed away.	
Electrocution from Lightning	Leaders, Participants	Climbing wall not to be used if lightning is forecast in or around the area wall is being used. If unforecasted lightning occurs, stop use of wall immediately and follow ROSPA lightning guidance on staying safe and the 30/30 rule for guidance on when to restart use of wall - https://www.rospea.com/leisure-safety/lightning . Do not attempt to close the wall until the 30:30 rule has been applied.	

Don't forget, as part of your programme planning, you should have contingency activities in reserve just in case you can't do what was planned or you need to stop half way through. Make sure this is shared with those involved, so everyone knows how to respond. You should have risk assessed contingency activities prior to them taking place and communicated key information to those involved as with all activities.

Version No	Brief Description of Change	Changed By	Date
Draft: V1	First Draft	DS	14/6/25
V1.1	Added collision between climbers entry following first use of the wall	DS	18/6/25
V1.2	Addition of lightning stop use requirement and 30:30 rule	DS	17/10/25

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