

## Blair Atholl Risk Assessment 2026

Name of activity , event, and location	Off site climbing for Blair Atholl at Craig Varr , OS grid reference NN 669590	Date of risk assessment	09/06/26	Name of person doing this risk assessment	David Sneddon
		Date of next review	06/07/26 (to be reviewed after crag recce on 5 <sup>th</sup> July)		

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?
Slips, trips and falls on the approach or while waiting at the bottom of the crag	Leaders, explorers	Ensure suitable footwear is worn by all participants Follow paths where possible to reduce trip hazards Specific hazards to be removed or highlighted to participants if they cannot be removed Equipment carried appropriately and no excessive loads carried	
Rock fall/dropped equipment	Leaders, explorers, 3 <sup>rd</sup> parties	Instructor assesses site on arrival Brief group on safe areas, access and egress Careful movement and rope / gear management at the top of the crag Minimize the number of people standing directly below ropes when setting up Helmets to be worn by all when at the base of the crag or climbing 3 <sup>rd</sup> parties to be informed of hazards from above All loose items secured / removed from climbers	
Fall From Height from crag top or while bouldering	Leaders, explorers	Leaders to safeguard their movement at the top of the crag while setting up climbs or running abseils Suitable equipment in good condition to be used at all times Bouldering to be limited in height / location and supervised by competent 'spotters' All leading to be conducted by competent people or backed up by a secondary system	
Entanglement of hair / clothing	Leaders, explorers, when belaying or abseiling	Leader to ensure that clothing, hair and jewellery is kept away from belay devices Loose clothing, long hair and jewellery should be removed, tied up or covered	
Fall from height due to belayer failure	Anyone climbing	Belayers trained and supervised by instructor Belayers backup by a 'tailer' where necessary	
Equipment failure	Leaders, explorers	All equipment checked before use. Only suitable equipment to be used. Equipment sourced from reputable sources Quarantine process in place for any faulty equipment to be removed from service	
Fall from height due to incorrect use of equipment	Leaders, explorers	Equipment only to be used for its intended purpose Equipment use to be monitored by competent leaders Any equipment which has been misused to be removed from service and quarantined	

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

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Friction burns	Leaders, explorers, when belaying or abseiling	Participants instructed on appropriate rate of lowering Leader controls the speed of rope if required 'tailer' can help control the speed of lowering if needed Appropriate amount of friction used for abseiling	
Animal/insect bites	Leaders, Explorers	Explorers advised they can bring insect repellent if they wish. Explorers briefed to check for tick bites after session and speak to subcamp/medical staff about removal if required. Explorers to seek medical attention if they have a reaction to any bite or sting	
Effects of weather	Explorers, leaders	Use sun hats/baseball caps when not wearing a helmet Encourage participants to bring and use an appropriate cream/spray Drink water at regular intervals Seek shade where req'd Use sunglasses as req'd Wear waterpoofs and warm layers if required for cold/wet weather.	
Road risk	Explorers, leaders	Minibus/cars parked off the road for unloading Explorers briefed about risk of the road and to act sensibly when near the road Explorers not to walk on or near the road unsupervised.	
Adverse public interaction/safeguarding risks	Explorers, Leaders	Explorers to stay with the group and not go off on their own Good crag etiquette followed to reduce any frustration that may arise from other crag users Any safeguarding risks to be reported and escalated following existing procedures	
Travel to crag from site	Explorers, leaders	Follow existing control measures from Transport Team	
Medical event while taking part in the activity	Participants, staff	Anyone who requires emergency medication (e.g. inhaler or adrenaline auto injector) to bring it to the activity and inform a member of staff. Anyone with a medical condition requiring any adjustment to the activity to inform a member of staff. All activities set up to permit immediate lowering of the participant in an emergency. First aider available during the activity.	

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.

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