

Risk assessment

Name of activity, event, and location	1 st Hoveton & Wroxham Climbing Wall	Date of risk assessment	26.02.26	Name of person doing this risk assessment	Gareth Parker
		Date of next review	26.02.27		

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.
Falling accident by unauthorised entrant to building	Unauthorised building entrant	All entry points secured when building not in use.	
Falling accident by unauthorised climber when climbing activity not taking place	Unauthorised climber	Volunteers to ensure all members understand the wall is out of bounds at all times unless their section is specifically taking part in a climbing activity. General good behaviour will be required & maintained at all times. There will be immediate admonishment of any climbing wall infractions.	
GENERAL RISK OF INJURY	All participants	The Lead Instructor will take ultimate responsibility for safety during a climbing session, and will determine competency of the group at the start of the session. The minimum required number of instructors (as per the wall Operating Manual) will always be used, and the appropriate supervision (as per Operating Manual) of non-participants. Before climbing sessions the Lead Instructor will brief Instructors as to their roles, outline the activity to participants, explain the expected behaviour, and brief on safety. The Lead Instructor will explicitly highlight safe areas and danger areas, and explain when and where safety equipment (helmets) must be worn. General good behaviour will be maintained at all times. There will be immediate admonishment of any climbing wall infractions.	
Fall from height by participant	All participants. (Climbers and those potentially struck by their fall.)	All climbers will use belay ropes and harnesses, checked by Instructors before use under the supervision of the Lead Instructor. Belayers will be instructed and monitored closely by Instructors, as per the Operating Manual. Mats will be placed at the foot of the wall. Helmet use is mandatory unless for Scouts or Explorers only it has been explicitly stated otherwise by the Lead Instructor. Each time a climber starts to climb an Instructor will visually check climber & belayer harnesses, knots and belays.	

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

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		No person is permitted to climb until their equipment has been checked and they are connected into the belay rope.	
Equipment failure	All participants	The Lead Instructor will make a visual check of equipment before use. A process exists and is to be followed for reporting possible damage to equipment (as per Operating Manual). Equipment will be disposed of at end of manufacturer's stated life or when damage / wear & tear requires. A Log is kept of wall (and therefore equipment) usage.	
Incorrect use of equipment leading to belayer injury	Belayers	Belayers will be shown correct use of equipment and monitored by instructors. The Lead instructor will decide whether participants will belay, or that only instructors will.	
Injury due to swinging into object on the wall, doorways or the walls next to the wall	Climbers	Flagpoles, bell etc will always be removed from the wall before any climbing activity takes place. Instructors will ensure climbers remain below the belay point, i.e. do not move sideways on the wall to the extent that a significant swing would occur if they lost grip.	
Spinning / failing holds leading to a fall.	Climbers	All climbers are instructed to report loose holds, which will be immediately tightened by an instructor who is not at that time monitoring an activity. Climbers will be appropriately belayed at all times.	
Snagging loose items / hair	All participants	Participants will be instructed to tuck in clothing, wear hairbands etc if necessary.	
Falling belongings hitting participants	All participants	Participants will be instructed to remove any loose items from pockets etc before participating.	

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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