

Document Purpose

This is a standard operating procedure for authorised persons to follow when using the Raywell Climbing Wall.

Document Control

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1. Assessment of Permit holder

The wall shall only be used while there is a permit holder **present** who has been assessed by an appointed Climbing Activity Assessor who holds a current relevant NGB qualification.

There are two types of permit assessment:

- Supervisory Permit
- Leadership Permit

The minimum age for a permit holder is fourteen years but those aged under eighteen years must follow the relevant Scout Association rules and current guidance.

All permit holders (over eighteen) must have their permit recorded on The Scouts current membership system.

It is a requirement that all permit holders have a thorough knowledge of the activity rules of the Scout Association and operate the wall in accordance with them.

Exceptions:

Members visiting from outside the County who can provide evidence of holding a current relevant permit.

Non-members with a current climbing wall National Governing Body qualification (NGB) or above AND who have knowledge of this system of operations (in accordance with which the wall must be operated).

2. Weather Restrictions

The wall **MUST NOT** be used if it is thundering or lightning or if it is forecast during the planned session.

3. General Information

Permit holders must wear climbing harnesses and helmets at all times.

None of the handrails must ever be used as anchors in any circumstances.

Only one person may be on each ladder at any one time.

Exceptions:

Ladders - When a permit holder is helping an anxious user.

Helmets – These may be removed at the top of the tower if belaying for long periods of time.

3. Equipment

Helmets certified to CE or UIAA are to be worn at all times by all people who are on the wall or gravel surround.

All ropes used are to be suitable kernmantle and the rope certified CE or UIAA.

All equipment (including ropes, harnesses, slings, karabiners, helmets etc.) to be manufactured for the purpose by a recognised company.

All equipment to be stored, maintained and discarded in accordance with The Scouts and manufacturers guidelines.

Prior to the session, permit holders must check all equipment is fit for use, record checks and remove and report any defective equipment to the County Office using the form provided.

Belayers must check that harnesses and helmets are correctly fastened immediately before every climb and abseil.

Exceptions:

Helmets – These may be removed at the top of the tower if belaying for long periods of time.

4. Climbing

A supervisor permit holder will be responsible for a maximum of three rope systems at any one time.

A leadership permit holder will be responsible for a maximum of one rope system at any one time.

If both the front and rear elevations of the wall are being used at the same time, there must be additional adult supervision on each side of the wall.

Ropes must be either attached direct to harness using a rethreaded figure of eight knot or attached using a figure of eight with a karabiner clipped to the belay loop. Harness manufacturers' guidelines to be followed for attaching rope or karabiner.

A safe method of belaying must be used at all times.

Only recognised belaying devices to be used for belaying.

All climbs must be top-roped by a belayer positioned on the ground.

The position of the climbs are indicated by a fixed anchor loop at the top.

Routes are pre-rigged using a tracer threaded through a fixed anvil at the top of the wall. The rope is tied to the tracer thread using a suitable knot and pulled through the anvil.

The permit holder must satisfy themselves that the rope is positioned correctly through the anvil before use.

Harnesses and ropes must always be used when climbing. Free climbing is NOT allowed.

Exceptions:

Bouldering – see below

5. Bouldering

An adult who is never more than four metres away must directly supervise participants.

There are to be no more than three people bouldering at once.

The section of wall must not be otherwise being used.

Feet must never be more than one metre from the ground.

Spotting can be used to aid confidence if required.

6. Abseiling

There must be no more than three people on top of the tower at any one time – one of which must be an authorised permit holder.

Exception; Training and assessing of new permit holders).

Abseiling is only to be done from the top of the tower or down the front of the small wall.

Use only RELEASABLE group abseil with safety rope.

Abseil rope must be attached to the tower via a releasable italian hitch and attached to a fixed anchor point (NOT the handrail).

The safety rope must be of sufficient length to reach the ground.

The abseil rope should be threaded between the lower and upper bars of the handrail to avoid placing too greater stress on the handrail, while providing some lift to the rope.

The Safety rope must be attached to two separate anchor points (NOT the handrail).

Belay device must be attached direct to anchor rope and then to abseiler. The belayer is out of the system although still attached to an anchor point (indirect belaying).

All abseiling should take place at a controlled speed.

Belaying is only to be undertaken by an assessed permit holder or trainees under instruction or assessment from an assessed permit holder or NGB qualification holder.