Bradley Wood Activity Centre
Bouldering 2026 - Risk Assessment 024

Document History			
Written / Revised By	**Date**	**Notes**	**Review Date**
Alice Chapman	October 2025	/	October 2026
Alice Chapman	March 2026	Reviewed and revised to match other site RAs	March 2027

Hazard & Associated Risk	Persons at Risk			Control Measures	Additional Precautions	Probability	Impact	Score	Risk
	Young	Staff	Visitors						
Non-Compliance with Scout / Girlguiding POR - Causing any personal injury to user, other users and spectators	P	P	P	- All rules are in accordance with Scout POR, Bouldering is NOT classed as an adventurous activity - Regular consultation with County Activity Lead on any changes from POR - Instructors who are leading Bouldering activities do not need a climbing permit but should be aware of the risks involved in the activity and plan for the limitations of their groups. -To undertake Bouldering for a Girlguiding group they must hold a BWI (Bouldering Wall Instructor) a CWI (Climbing Wall Instructor) or higher. Or have in-house site-specific assessment, renewed annually, assessed by someone with a CWDI (Climbing Wall Development Instructor) or higher.		1	3	3	Minor
Climbing Wall / Wooden Triangle Frame – Falls resulting in injury	P	P		- The bouldering activity height is limited by a white horizontal line along the climbing wall, to keep any potential falls to low level. -The height of the triangular wooden climbing frame is not high, <1.5m, to keep any potential falls to low level. -The floor (black mat) of the climbing area is padded, to reduce impact of falls. -All people not directly involved in the climbing are to keep away from the activity area. -Close supervision and discipline provided by instructor. -The number of people on a wall may need to be limited, each participant should have at least 1m around them when bouldering.	-Teach the group about spotting. Only do this if appropriate with the group. Instructors/Leaders can take on this role. -There should be a Leader/Instructor spotting participants over the top of the triangular wooden frame (for younger participants). - First Aid kit must be available in the activity area	2	3	6	Moderate

					-Instructor holds current Scout First Aid qualification (or higher)				
Falling Objects – Causing head injury, other injuries or damage to personal items	P	P	p	- Procedures in place to check equipment before use and action taken if any issues are discovered - Correct footwear must be worn, secure to foot and closed toe - Participants to remove loose objects from their pockets and securely tie their shoelaces	- First Aid kit must be available in the activity area -Instructor holds current Scout First Aid qualification (or higher)	3	1	3	Minor
Failure of Equipment - Leading to personal injury to user or staff - Causing abrasions, bruises, cuts, and bumped heads	P	P		- Procedures in place to check equipment before use and action taken if any issues are discovered - Annual safety inspection carried out by external company on Climbing Wall -If a participants find any holds to be loose, they must inform the instructor. So that it can be tightened. - The activity area (Climbing Wall) will be checked monthly for any damage. Inspections will be logged - Clear safety briefing delivered by Instructor to include correct use of any equipment	-The equipment goes through an annual inspection and periodic inspections to maintain equipment integrity. -A near miss book is in operation to identify any problem areas.	2	2	4	Moderate
Loose Clothing Jewellery & Hair - Becoming entangled or a strangulation risk				-Suitable clothing to be worn. -Remove all dangly jewellery and loose items of clothing where appropriate. This is at the instructor's discretion. -Hair of shoulder length or longer should be tied back. -Climbing ropes should be moved out of the way to reduce risk of participate tangling themselves up – This can be done by clipping them to a ballast bag away from the wall. -Climbing ladder should be clipped out of the way (to an anchor bolt on the wall) -Shoes should be closed toe and securely fastened.	-Rings can be taped up using climbing tape - if deemed appropriate. -There are spare climbing shoes available in the climbing store if participant shoes are deemed not appropriate.	1	4	4	Moderate

Instructor Safety & Suitability – Lack of skill / knowledge				-The ratio of Activity Instructors/Leaders to participants should not exceed 1:8. -Scout members who are leading bouldering activities do not need a climbing permit but should be aware of the risks involved in the activity and plan for the limitations of their groups.	-The instructor should have sufficient bouldering knowledge and experience to support the group members and encourage skill development throughout the activity.	2	2	4	Moderate
Uneven Ground / Disorderly Behaviour – Resulting in trips and slips	P	P	P	- Procedures in place to check activity area before use and action taken if any issues are discovered -Clear safety briefing delivered by Instructor to include no running in the activity area - Close supervision by the Instructors and Group Leader - Correct footwear to be worn – secure to foot and closed toe - Spectators should remain seated/away from activity elements - Persons failing to follow rules will be asked to leave the activity area -The activity area will be checked monthly for any damage. Inspections will be logged.	- First Aid kit must be available in the activity area -Instructor holds current Scout First Aid qualification (or higher)	3	2	6	Moderate
Hazards Arising from the Actions of Group Members - i.e. overcrowding and disorderly behaviour.	P	P		- Clear safety briefing delivered by Instructor will set expectations for Bouldering, how to use equipment and will make sure rules are followed - Activity to be supervised at all times by Instructors, who will make sure rules are followed - Group Leader/Teacher will provide supervision and correct ratios - Persons failing to follow rules will be asked to leave Bouldering		2	2	4	Moderate
	P	P		- Areas of risk pointed out prior to commencement		1	2	2	Minor

Collisions - Causing injury to participants				- Instructors oversee activity - Participants briefed to stay at least 1m apart from each other	- First Aid kit must be available in the activity area -Instructor holds current Scout First Aid qualification (or higher)				
Unauthorized Use - causing theft, vandalism or foreign objects in activity area	P	P	P	- Equipment removed after session, stored in designated area -The climbing wall is in a locked and alarmed building - Ropes looped and off the floor - The Instructor is responsible for counting all items in and out to ensure none are left behind. - Procedures in place to check equipment and activity area before use and action taken if any issues are discovered - The activity area will be checked monthly for any damage. Inspections will be logged - Normal site security procedures in place		1	3	3	Minor