

Outdoor Education Standard Operating Procedures

A photograph of an artificial climbing wall. The wall is composed of large, light-colored panels with a grid of small holes. Numerous colorful climbing holds (orange, yellow, red, green, blue, purple) are attached to the wall. A large, dark blue banner with a torn-edge effect is superimposed over the center of the wall. The banner contains the text "AOEC Artificial Wall" in white, bold, sans-serif font.

AOEC Artificial Wall

Standard Operating Procedures: Ancrum Outdoor Centre on site wall

Definition and Scope of Activities

Use of the AOEC on site wall

The major activities covered within this section are as follows:

- Bouldering on the indoor wall
- Roped climbing on the outside wall.

Precautions to Minimise Hazards

It is essential that the Standard Operating Procedures are followed and that personnel leading the Group fully brief the group to pay attention to hazard warning information, remain in control of the activity and follow accredited tuition and activity progression.

The specific hazards identified above are not exhaustive and additional hazards or combinations may arise during the course of an activity necessitating ongoing attention to minimise or control the risk(s) to a manageable level.

Seasonal Constraints

Climbing activities can take place all year

Tuition Ratios

The tuition ratios are:

- 1 Leader to 8 participants

Tuition Leader Qualifications

All leaders must hold valid first aid certificate

Minimum qualifications:

Indoor Bouldering Wall

- Onsite induction by TA

Outdoor Roped Wall

- CWA/RCI or equivalent
- Onsite induction/assessment by TA
 - Staff operating with onsite induction should discuss their session plan with Senior Instructor/TA prior to each session

The National Governing Bodies contact data relevant to this section are as follows:

- Mountain Leader Training – www.mltuk.org

Equipment - Participants

- No specific equipment is required for Bouldering although climbing shoes may be advisable
- Harness and helmet for roped climbing

Access / Environment

The outside wall needs to be set up before use, this is a **TWO** person task. It involves lowering two panels down and putting ropes up over the anchor bar. Both panels must be down before people climb on the wall. The ropes can be put up by the use of tracer cords which should be in place. It is possible to access the bar from the top of the ski slope.

RISK ASSESSMENT

ASSESSMENT REF NO: AOEC climb

Activity: AOEC Climbing Wall

Location: Various

Assessor: DS, JL

Hazard	Who might be harmed?			Existing controls What makes the hazard less risky? What makes these controls effective?	Risk			Further actions Avoid Control at source Take advantage of technology Protect all Make what you have more effective	Target date dd-mm-yy	Responsibility	Completion Date	New Residual Risk
	Public	Client	Leader		Probability	Severity	Rating					
Injury from the folding panels	x	x	x	Two persons to be present while lowering / raising the boards Padlocks / chains to be checked when used, ensure padlocks are secured at the end of the session.	1	4	4	None				
Failure of bolts and top anchors	x	x	x	Anchors to be inspected as per regulations.	1	5	5	None				
Loose hold or bolts on wall	x	x	x	Tighten any loose holds, brief groups on not to touch bolts / ice axe holds with hands	3	2	6	Holds may come loose at any point. Tools are kept with the wall to allow holds to be tightened up on site.				
Getting body part / clothing caught on / in the wall		x	x	Continuous observation from wall supervisors, particularly when participants are being lowered. Loose clothing to be removed/ tucked in where possible	2	3	6	None				
Jewellery caught while climbing		x		Remove and loose necklaces, dangly earrings and all rings.	3	2	6					
Object falling from height	x	x	x	Pockets emptied and no loose object carried up the wall	2	3	6	Helmets may be appropriate for some groups				

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				Good group control at the base of the wall as there is not a lot of space.								
Fall from height		x	x	Appropriate safety systems to be used.	1	5	5	None				
Hitting side wall / shutter cover on descent or during a fall.		x	x	Padding in place on both. Lowering should be of an appropriately slow speed Close observation of peer belaying to ensure it is tight enough.	2	3	6	None				
Falling into the wall / corners / other person while bouldering	x	x	x	Routes are all set up to around 2m (for hand holds) Wall installed with rubbercrumb flooring to reduce injury Suitable group management	2	3	6	Consider the use of spotters to support climbers.				
Doors opening un-expectedly (boulder wall only)	x	x	x	Brief groups on doors	2	2	4	Wall supervisor should be aware if there are other people in the bike shed.				

Further actions approved by: Derek Napier

Signature: D Napier

Date: 9th April, 2026

Urgency of Action = (20>Very High) (16-20 High) (9-15 Moderate) (4-8 Low) (1-3 Very Low)

Severity = 1. Damage 2. Minor Injury 3. +3 Days/Hospitalised 4. Major Injury/Permanent Disability 5. Fatality

Probability = 1. Very Unlikely 2. Unlikely 3. Fairly Likely 4. Likely 5. Very Likely

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Ancrum Outdoor Centre, 10 Ancrum Road, Dundee DD2 2HZ Tel: 01382 435911
Web: www.ancrum.com Email: ancrum.centre@leisureandculturaldundee.com

