

Climbing Wall Operator's Manual

Saltash Community School — Artificial Climbing Structure (ACS)

Prepared in accordance with BS EN 12572-1:2017 (Clause 6 and Annex G)

REV05 — July 2026 — Bluco Projects Ltd

This manual is the day-to-day reference for staff operating the climbing wall. The full technical record — structural report, calculations, drawings, test results and installation evidence — is the ACS Design and Installation Report (REV05), held by the duty holder. Keep this manual at the point of use.

1. Identification and marking

- **Manufacturer / design & installation:** Bluco Projects Ltd, 2 Endeavour House, Parkway Court, Long Bridge Road, Plymouth PL6 8LR — +44 7901 931628 — info@blucoprojects.com
- **Supplier / installer:** Bluco Projects Ltd (fabrication: Westcountry Fabrication)
- **Standard:** BS EN 12572-1:2017 — Artificial climbing structures, Part 1
- **Date of installation:** 27 August 2025
- **Date of next main inspection:** 27 August 2026 (annual)

A notice bearing the five items above must be permanently displayed in a clearly visible place on the ACS and kept up to date after each main inspection.

2. The wall and its protection points

- Roped climbing wall, approx. 7.0 m high, with 2 individual top protection points (TruBlue auto belay / top rope lines). Maximum 2 climbing lines usable simultaneously — one climber per line.
- 3 intermediate protection points per line plus the top anchor; first clip point at 3.0 m.
- Fixed extension quickdraws set the protection spacing required by the standard: 12 cm (point 1), 35 cm (point 2), 35 cm (point 3). Do not remove, shorten or swap these slings. All are rated ≥ 20 kN (EN 566) and maillon-fixed so they can only be removed with tools; gates sequentially opposing.
- As-built clip heights (record on fitting): Line 1 — pt 1: ____ m, pt 2: ____ m, pt 3: ____ m, top: ____ m. Line 2 — pt 1: ____ m, pt 2: ____ m, pt 3: ____ m, top: ____ m.
- Maximum additional load for volumes: 15 kg/m² of panel; volumes only on tested panel inserts.
- Weight limit: 10–120 kg per climber (TruBlue auto belay specification). Minimum age 6; minors supervised.
- This is NOT a bouldering wall. Un-roped climbing is not permitted above 3.0 m, and only where matting is deployed.

3. User instructions

Before you climb

- **Check in** — pupils must be registered with the school and supervised by an authorised member of staff.
- **Authorisation** — the wall may only be used when a competent, certified supervisor/belayer is present. Only certified belayers may handle ropes; only trained users may clip into TruBlue auto belay devices.
- **Equipment** — harness snug and double-checked (buddy check). Use only equipment approved by the operator.
- **Buddy check** — harness buckles, knot (figure-of-eight follow-through) or auto belay karabiner to belay loop, belay device loaded correctly, rope clear of the climber's legs.
- **Warm up** — stretch fingers, arms and shoulders before climbing.

While climbing

- **One climber per line** — never climb directly above or below another climber; maximum 2 climbers on the wall.
- **Stay in your lane** — follow the colour-coded holds for your route.
- **Controlled movement** — avoid sudden jumps or uncontrolled swings.
- **Communicate** — “On belay?” / “Belay on!” and “Climbing?” / “Climb on!”
- **Keep the base clear** — no standing or walking beneath an active climber; cordon or mark the landing zone during sessions so other hall users stay outside the falling space.
- **No loose objects** — remove jewellery, watches and pocket items. Do not climb under the influence of alcohol, drugs or while injured.

After climbing

- **Descend safely** — top rope: lower slowly under control. Auto belay: sit back, hands on harness. Never down-jump.
- **Return gear** — store ropes, karabiners and harnesses properly; report damaged or dropped equipment.
- **Report defects** — loose or spinning holds and any damage reported immediately; the affected route is closed until fixed.

4. Staff competency and training

- A named, competent supervisor must be present whenever the wall is in use. Belayers hold a current, recognised belay competency (e.g. NICAS-aligned or club/NGB assessment); auto belay users are inducted on clipping, use and lowering.
- Rescue: staff must be able to lower a stranded climber promptly. Keep the school’s rescue plan with this manual and practise it at least annually.

Name	Role / qualification	Date assessed	Review due

5. Inspection and maintenance (Annex G)

Inspection frequency varies with the type of equipment and materials used and other factors — intensity of use, vandalism, location, air pollution and age of equipment. The regime below is the minimum; increase frequency in periods of heavy use.

- **Routine visual inspection** — before each session (daily in heavy use): from ground level check cleanliness, loose or spinning holds, obstacles in the free space, missing parts, excessive wear, damage to matting, ropes, karabiners, extension slings and auto belay webbing.
- **Operational inspection** — every 1–3 months, documented: detailed check of operation, stability and wear — protection points and quickdraws, hold tightness (sample re-torque to 25 N·m), panel fixings, T-nuts, signage, auto belay function test. Special attention to protection points.
- **Main inspection** — every 12 months, documented, by a competent person: overall level of safety of the ACS, anchors, structural frame, steelwork, timber and wall surfaces, including effects of repairs or added/replaced components. May require partial dismantling.
- **Extension slings** — visual check each session for cuts, abrasion, glazing or UV damage; stitching, maillon tightness and gate orientation checked at each operational inspection; replace at manufacturer lifetime or immediately after a significant fall, chemical contact or visible damage — like-for-like ≥ 20 kN EN 566 at the recorded lengths.
- **Auto belay devices** — inspected/serviced 6-monthly in accordance with TruBlue requirements; PPE (harnesses, ropes, karabiners) inspected before use and recorded in the PPE log.
- **Run-in period** — after installation or any re-configuration, re-check and re-tighten all hold bolts and accessible fixings within the first 4 weeks of use.
- **Replacement parts** — like-for-like to the manufacturer's specification (SS 316L threaded bar, 8.8 fixings, Hilti HIT-HY 200 resin, Kong panels, EN 12572-3 holds). Spare parts are identified in section 22.1 of the Design & Installation Report.

Rejection criteria

Withdraw any component that: has been modified outside the manufacturer's production units; has held a fall of factor 1 or more; has been used below -40°C or above $+80^{\circ}\text{C}$; has exceeded its lifetime; or has contacted damaging chemicals.

Inspection log

Date	Type (visual / operational / main)	Findings / defects	Action taken	Inspector

--	--	--	--	--

6. Emergency procedures

- **Injury** — stop climbing, alert staff immediately. First aid kit at the PE office/front desk. Record in the school accident book.
- **Stranded climber / auto belay failure** — keep the climber calm; lower using the rescue plan (certified staff); call 999 if required.
- **Fall (roped)** — belayer must always keep the brake hand on the rope.
- **Fire or evacuation** — climbers lower immediately and follow marked exits and staff instructions.
- **After any significant fall onto a protection point** — close that line and inspect the point, quickdraw and sling before further use (see rejection criteria).

Incident log

Date	What happened	Action / follow-up	Reported by

7. Troubleshooting

Issue	Possible cause	Action
Loose hold	Bolt not fully tightened	Report to staff; route closed until re-torqued (25 N·m)
Rope, webbing or sling worn	Excessive use / damage	Withdraw and replace immediately (like-for-like)
Belay device sticking	Dirt or chalk build-up	Clean or replace
Climber swinging uncontrollably	Poor belay technique	Stop session; re-train belayer
Auto belay slow/noisy retraction	Webbing wear or device fault	Take line out of service; contact TruBlue service agent

8. Contact and support

For maintenance, accidents or emergencies contact facility staff immediately.

- **Manufacturer support:** Bluco Projects Ltd — www.blucoprojects.com — info@blucoprojects.com — +44 7901 931628
- **Full technical record:** ACS Design and Installation Report, Saltash, REV05 (July 2026) — held by the duty holder.

This manual is issued under BS EN 12572-1:2017. Re-issue after each main inspection or any change to the wall configuration.