



Saltash Community School

Artificial Climbing Structure (ACS) — to BS EN 12572-1:2017 (Clause 6 and Annex G)

Manufacturer / design & installation	Bluco Projects Ltd
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)
Manual revision	REV06 — see revision history overleaf

REVISION HISTORY

Revision history

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, held by the duty holder. Keep this manual at the point of use.

Rev	Date	Reason for revision
05	July 2026	Initial issue
06	August 2026	As-built clip heights recorded for both East side lines (previously blank on fitting); Bluco brand template applied;

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
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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 (recorded on fitting) — East side, both lines

Measured and provided by Simon Downing, August 2026. Both Line 1 and Line 2 on the east side share the same clip heights.

Point	Height (m)	Gap below (m)
Point 1 (first clip)	3.000	—
Point 2	4.100	1.100
Point 3	5.380	1.280
Top / lower-off	6.500	1.120

Additional wall data

- 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.

Staff competency record

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 — re-check and re-tighten all hold bolts and accessible fixings within the first 4 weeks of use, after installation or any re-configuration.
- 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 $+80$ °C; has exceeded its lifetime; or has contacted damaging chemicals.

Inspection log

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

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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 — 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.