

Oread Mountaineering Club Health & Safety Policy

This policy demonstrates the Club's commitment to good health and safety and to clarify procedures and areas of responsibility. It includes details of Risk Assessments required, how to respond to an incident or accident and who is the Club's contact should a Health and Safety concern arise.

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1. Introduction

1.1 The objectives of the Oread Mountaineering Club (the Club) are to promote the interests of climbing, hill walking and mountaineering and provide an opportunity for members of the Club to meet and participate in such activities. This aim is greatly encouraged and facilitated by regular club meets, social activities and informal meets. By their nature these are hazardous activities.

1.2 The Committee of the Club recognises that members of the Club, their guests and others are faced with a variety of hazards whilst involved in club activities and whilst staying in club huts or helping to maintain them. The Committee also recognises that the Club has a duty of care to all members, guests and visitors to its premises as well as specific statutory obligations. In furtherance of its aims the Club is affiliated to the British Mountaineering Council (BMC).

1.3 With regard to mountaineering related activities of members and guests, particularly when on organised Club meets, the Committee and Club members endorse the BMC's Participation Statement and expect guests to accept its principles (see 4.3).

1.4 The Committee is committed to minimise the risks associated with such hazards as far as is reasonably practicable and as they are within their control, and to ensure statutory obligations are addressed.

2. Purpose

2.1 the purpose of this policy is:

- a) To facilitate Club meets, social activities and ad hoc meets such that they are as safe as is reasonably practicable given the nature of the event, and clarify the role of the Club and the role of the Meet Co-ordinator.
- b) To provide Club premises that are safe for all members, guests, visitors, contractors and members of the public.
- c) To encourage safe practices by those using the Club's huts.

2.2 To help achieve this, the Committee will appoint a Health and Safety Co-ordinator (see 3.2).

2.3 This policy, and the Oread Mountaineering Club Fire Safety Policy and associated records will be reviewed annually by the H&S Co-ordinator for suitability and compliance. More frequent review will be undertaken if there has been any change to applicable legislation, regulation or to the premises or their use). The review findings will be presented to the committee and recorded including any required actions and suggested policy amendments.

3. Club Organisation

3.1 The affairs of the Club are managed by a Committee, its Officers and members being elected annually at the Club AGM. Post-holders' names can be found on the Club's website together with contact details. The Committee can appoint other members to undertake specialist tasks. The Committee steer Health & Safety policy and it is their role to promote a strong culture of safety in all aspects of club activities.

3.2 The Health and Safety Co-ordinator is appointed by the Committee at the first meeting of a new committee, after which notice of the appointment is published to Club members. The role of the Health and Safety Co-ordinator is to facilitate the implementation of the Health and Safety Policy. While the role is not a committee position (and hence carries no vote), the Health and Safety Co-ordinator may attend the Committee by arrangement.

3.3 Hut Committees are responsible for the safe running and maintenance of the Club huts and report to the Committee. Each hut has a Hut Custodian who leads the Hut Committee and is a member of the Club

Committee. Hut Custodian(s) and the members of the respective Hut Committee are elected annually at the Club's AGM.

3.4 Under the guidance of the Health and Safety Co-ordinator, Hut Custodians are responsible for Health and Safety matters within their huts.

4. Club Membership

4.1 Membership is only open to adults aged 18 and over who satisfy points 4.2 and 4.3.

4.2 A criterion for membership of the Club is that applicants are able to recognise their own level of mountaineering skill, competence and experience and participate in activities that are appropriate to that level.

4.3 Club Members and applicants for membership must recognise and endorse the BMC's Participation Statement see <https://www.thebmc.co.uk/en/bmc-participation-statement>:

"The BMC recognises that climbing and mountaineering are activities with a danger of personal injury or death. Participants in these activities should be aware of and accept these risks and be responsible for their own actions and involvement."

5. Club Meets

5.1. The Oread organises regular club meets and social activities, each usually facilitated by a Meet Co-ordinator. The Meet Co-ordinator looks after the administrative aspects, introduces participants, and acts as a focus during the meet.

5.2 The Meet Co-ordinator will provide a brief description of the meet and this will normally be published in advance in the Club newsletter. This description and occasional additional information may also be available on the club website and is often sent by email to Club members or through social media.

5.3 It is not the role or responsibility of the Club, the Meet Co-ordinator or participating Club Members to provide either guidance or tuition on a Club meet or assess whether a not the activity is suitable or appropriate for a participant.

5.4 Participants in Club activities are required to act in a responsible manner, conscious both of their own safety and of the impact of their conduct on the safety of others, and hold in mind their individual duty of care to all in their company.

5.5 Participants on Club meets are individually responsible for themselves, assessing their own suitability for activity, what they decide to do, and for arranging their own insurances.

5.6 Members' guests are not covered by the BMC third party insurance enjoyed by Club members, unless the guests are BMC members in their own right.

5.7 Any under 18 year olds on any meet must be accompanied by a responsible adult, identified to the Meet Co-ordinator.

5.8 Meets are often held in climbing huts, campsites and other premises owned and managed by others. Members and their guests are expected to adhere to safety procedures that are in place at these venues.

5.9 Indoor meets including lectures and indoor climbing wall meets are usually held in premises owned and managed by others. Members and their guests are expected to adhere to safety procedures that are in place at the establishment.

5.10 Risk assessment will be carried out by the Meet Co-ordinator (with the assistance of the Meets Secretary) for meets that are specifically aimed at new, novice or less-experienced members, or if the main

focus of the meet is an unusual activity. The consideration of potential risks should not be an arduous process. The Risk Assessment should only cover those aspects of the meet that are unusual and reasonably foreseeable. Guidance is included in the Club Meet Co-ordinator's Guide.

5.11. In view of the criteria for membership (4.1 – 4.3) a Risk Assessment is not required for each meet and will not be carried out for the majority of meets.

5.12 Should an incident or accident occur on a Club meet the Meet Co-ordinator should be informed as soon as practicable, and actions taken as shown in the Meet Co-ordinator's Guide (see Club website). The Meet Co-ordinator shall ensure that the Health and Safety Co-Ordinator is informed, and details of the incident recorded. Club members are advised to inform the BMC insurers (details are listed on BMC website) of any injury or potential 3rd party injury which could be subject of an insurance claim. See also Section 7 below.

6. Hut Management

6.1 General

6.1.1 The Club owns a climbing hut, Tan yr Wyddfa in Wales, and leases another, Heathy Lea in the Peak District. Use of huts (which facilitates the objectives of the club) is open to Club members, their guests and members of BMC affiliated clubs. Each hut is managed by a Hut Committee and has a Hut Custodian. The role of the Custodian includes promoting the safe use of the hut, assessing risk and ensuring safe systems.

6.1.2 Safety in huts should be proactive, not reactive. Hut Custodians should be aware of and follow Guidelines provided by the BMC, especially those relating to Health and Safety, Fire Safety and hut maintenance. (See <https://www.thebmc.co.uk/en/hut-guidelines>)

6.2 Risk Assessments (general)

6.2.1 Risk Assessments are undertaken to identify and record measures required to achieve acceptable level of health and safety. They identify hazards, the arising risks, and the controls necessary to achieve risks as low as reasonably practical (ALARP) when considering the particular circumstances of the risk. The risk controls will be made available to all who may be affected by the residual risks.

6.2.2 H&S Risk Assessments should be carried out using guidance in the current BMC "H&S Guidelines for Hut Managers" at <https://www.thebmc.co.uk/en/hut-guidelines>

6.2.3 Risk assessments relevant to huts will be arranged by the Hut Custodian together with assistance from the Health and Safety Co-ordinator (and other Club members if required). Additional expert assistance must be obtained if an appropriate level of competence is not available.

6.3 Hut Buildings and Grounds Risk Assessment

6.3.1 A risk assessment for Buildings & Grounds will be prepared for each hut and maintained by the Hut Custodian. Hut Buildings & Grounds Risk Assessments shall be reviewed and if necessary updated by the Hut Custodian if there has been any change to legislation, regulation, or to the premises or their use, or an accident or incident has occurred. A review must be undertaken in any case at least every 3 years and any review recorded on the risk assessment.

6.3.2 A hut accessibility assessment shall be carried out and recorded to identify any reasonable adjustments that might be made to enable disabled persons to make use of the huts in a manner no less favourably than persons who are not disabled. The Club will make reasonable adjustments taking into account the specific circumstances of the case, including practicability, the cost of the adjustment and club resources. Visitors will be asked to identify any specific accessibility needs at the time of booking.

6.4. Hut Fire Safety

6.4.1 The Club has a Fire Safety Policy that applies to both its huts.

6.4.2 For the purpose of fire safety the Hut Custodian will be the “responsible person” and carry out, and review at least annually (and more often when regulations or any changes to the premises or use occur), a Fire Safety Risk Assessment at each hut (The Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005). A suitably qualified “competent person” should be employed for this task if the Hut Custodian deems this necessary.

6.4.3 The assessment shall follow “A short guide to making your premises safe from fire” published by the Department for Communities and Local Government and the BMC Guideline 3.1: Fire Safety – England and Wales. Under the direction of the Health and Safety Co-ordinator the assessment will be carried out by the Hut Custodian with assistance from the Hut Committee.

6.4.4 Expert advice must be obtained if considered necessary.

6.5 Records - Storage and Retention

6.5.1 The Hut Custodians shall keep a schedule of planned maintenance and records of all planned and arising maintenance carried out including:

- a) Records of last and next due dates for all statutory and other inspections including fire safety, gas, electrical and water systems. Records shall be kept on the Club digital library (GoogleDrive) by the Hut Custodian.
- b) Records of an annual check of the state and suitability of the structure, fixtures, fittings and furniture, not covered elsewhere, shall be maintained by the Hut Custodian.

6.5.2 Records of all accident and incident reports shall be kept on the Club digital library (GoogleDrive) by the Health and Safety Co-ordinator.

6.5.3 Records relating to accidents involving children (under 18's) must be maintained until the child has reached the age of 18 plus 3 years.

6.5.4 Retention periods are otherwise unlimited.

6.6 Electrical and Gas Safety – installation and testing

6.6.1 Fixed electrical installations must comply with relevant regulations and must be tested by a qualified person at installation and thereafter at least every 5 years.

6.6.2 Portable electrical appliances shall be visually inspected at least every 6 months by the Hut Custodian and withdrawn if deemed to be unsafe. Portable appliance testing (PAT) shall be carried out annually by a competent person.

6.6.3 Gas installations shall be undertaken, and tested annually, by a ‘Gas Safe’ registered fitter.

6.7 Hut Maintenance Meets

6.7.1 From time to time Hut Working Party meets are arranged to carry out hut maintenance. The Club recognises this can create additional hazards for participants and others.

6.7.2 A risk assessment for the work to be carried out shall be completed by the Hut Custodian and the Meet Co-ordinator prior to each maintenance meet, and all reasonable preventative steps shall be taken. The findings shall be available to all who may be affected by the residual risks.

6.7.3 Only appropriate and serviceable tools, equipment and personal protection are to be used. Persons should be suitably experienced and qualified for the work they undertake.

6.8 Young People (under 18's)

6.8.1 Persons under-18 shall be under appropriate parent or guardian supervision whilst using huts. Extra care should be exercised in hazardous areas, including stairs, kitchens, near fires, parking areas and water courses.

6.9 Contractors

6.9.1 Contractors working at Club huts must be suitably qualified and carry their own Third Party Liability insurance both of which should be checked by the Hut Custodian. A copy of the Club's Employers Liability Insurance certificate should be given to the contractor before work commences.

6.9.2 To enable contractors to provide and follow their work Risk Assessment and Method Statement, Hut Custodians should make the Contractor aware of any hazards that could affect the work that they might otherwise be unaware of (e.g. underground or overground pipes or cables, asbestos).

6.10 Asbestos

6.10.1 The "duty holder" under the Control of Asbestos at Work Regulations 2002 (CAWR) at both huts is the Committee of the Club. The Health and Safety Coordinator and Hut Custodians undertake the tasks required of the duty holder on behalf of the Committee. Duties are to identify and assess the presence of asbestos, and in such case create and implement an asbestos management register. The findings of an asbestos survey shall be held by the Hut Custodian (and filed on the Club's digital library).

6.10.2 No exposed asbestos is thought to be present at Tan yr Wyddfa or at Heathy Lea. There may be asbestos in some of the decorative ceiling coatings at Tan yr Wyddfa and at Heathy Lea, these areas should not be disturbed. However, before any construction / maintenance work checks will be undertaken.

6.11 Water

6.11.1 Risk of legionella contamination managed by Annual sampling, temperature checks on hot and cold water, condition of any water storage tank, removal of dead ends in plumbing layouts carried out, regular cleaning of shower heads

6.11.2 Waste water plant, where applicable, will be emptied and checked at least once annually by a specialist contractor. Waste will be safely disposed of off-site and waste transfer notices provided.

6.12 Chemicals and cleaning agents

Chemicals and cleaning agents will be stored safely (COSHH). Any flammable liquids or propellant will be stored in a lockable store, located outside.

7. Reporting of Accidents/Incidents (occurring on Club premises or elsewhere)

7.1 Accidents are unexpected events that have caused personal injury, death or ill-health. An Incident is an event that hasn't caused any personal injury, but might have.

7.2 The first response to an Accident is for those on site to care for the wellbeing of those affected by the event. Details of Club Member's emergency contacts, where defined by a Club member, are held in a secure database which can be accessed by any Committee member.

7.3 Accidents and Incidents are reported to both facilitate improvement and provide records in connection with any potential insurance claim. Events shall be reported as below:

Event	Occurring on Club Premises	Occurring not on Club Premises
Accidents (unexpected event that has caused personal injury, death or ill-health)	Accident/Incident report to Hut Custodian and the H&S Co-ordinator Club members are advised to inform the BMC insurers (details are listed on BMC website) of any injury or potential 3 rd party claims.	[as local requirements] Club members are advised to inform the BMC insurers (details are listed on BMC website) of any injury or potential 3 rd party claims.
Incidents (events that haven't caused any personal injury, but might have)	Accident/Incident report to Hut Custodian and the H&S Co-ordinator	[as local requirements]
Damage to premises or equipment	Details immediately reported to the Club Treasurer (who will forward these to the Club's insurers within 21 days of the event).	[as local requirements]

7.4 Events on Club premises shall be reported on an Accident/Incident report form found in each hut, and forwarded as detailed on the forms (ie to the Hut Custodian and the H&S Co-ordinator).

7.5 On being advised of an Accident or Incident

- a) the Hut Custodian shall take any immediate action deemed necessary to safeguard the safety of future visitors and/or advise the Hut Committee on necessary action.
- b) the Health and Safety Co-ordinator shall review the hut H&S and Fire Safety risk assessments and recommend and carry out any necessary amendment.
- c) all Accidents and Incidents on Club premises shall be reported to the Club committee.
- d) the Health and Safety Co-Ordinator shall ensure records are retained.

8. Insurance

8.1 As a consequence of the Club's affiliation to the BMC, Club members are also BMC Club Members and as such have the benefit of civil liability insurance arranged through the BMC.

8.2 The Club insures its huts, buildings and contents via the BMC. There is no civil liability cover provided by this policy.

8.3 As part of the BMC membership insurance package for clubs, Employers' Liability Insurance is provided by the insurers. Cover is not automatic and it is necessary to apply for this cover and to renew it annually by submitting the appropriate application form. The Club applies for and receives this cover.

8.4 Club members who use shared transport, give lifts, or allow others to drive their car are advised to check with their insurance company what their policy is on sharing fuel costs.

9. Club Legal Status

9.1 The Club is an unincorporated association. One effect of this is that the Club has no legal personality of its own and any liabilities are borne by the members. The Club's Constitution and Policies include measures intended to ensure proper management of responsibilities and liabilities. The status is subject to regular review and advice of alternatives, including such from the BMC and other similar clubs.

Declaration

This Policy was approved and adopted by the Committee on 21 July 2026

Signatories:

M. Moss	
President	

S. Christian	
Health and Safety Co-ordinator	

Hut Custodians	
C Wilson	D Helliwell

Last Review date: Jul 2026

Amendment record

Jun 25	
Jan 26	[6.3.5] hut accessibility assessment clarification 'Meet Leader' changed to 'Meet Co-ordinator' (consistency with usage elsewhere)
Jul 26	Following 2025/6 review of H&S & Fire Safety policies content and implementation: [1.1] amended to achieve Objectives consistent with constitution [1.2] affiliation to BMC noted [2.3] H&S policy review clarified [3.2] H&S Co-ordinator role clarified; appointment process added [4.3] Members obligation to endorse BMC participation Statement added [5] Club Meets - requirements grouped [5.1] incorporates previous 3.5 [5.3] Meet Co-ordinator etc - roles clarified [5.7] u18s responsible adult, must be identified added [5.10] meet risk assessment- advice in meet Co-ordinator's guide, note added [5.12 (meets) & 6.5 (huts)] - accident and incident reporting process clarified [6.2.1, elements of a risk assessment defined (6.2 was previously 6.3) [6.3] requirement for Building & Grounds Risk Assessment amplified (previously in 6.3.1) [6.5] Reporting of accidents /incidents moved to separate section 7 to cover all circumstances, minor amds to suit, Subsequent paras renumbered [6.6] Records - Storage and Retention. - : storage on Gdrive added; schedule of last and next inspections added [6.8] Hut Maintenance meets - requirements clarified [6.9] Young people at huts – requirement for identity of person responsible added [6.9.2] original deleted – residual risks covered by 6.2.1 [6.10.2] Contractors – contractor management (Method statement/ Risk Assessment) clarified [6.11] Asbestos –duties of duty holder clarified [6.12] Water - para added [6.13] Chemicals and cleaning agents - para added Other minor formatting changes/clarifications to suit.