



## **BIG DEPOT CLIMBING MANCHESTER**

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## **Accessibility for all at Depot Climbing**

We aim to be as accessible and inclusive as possible, and we are always looking at how we can remove barriers to entry in any of our climbing walls. We aim to be able to offer climbing to everyone, regardless of age, disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex or sexual orientation. Everyone at Depot Climbing is equal and will be treated equally when visiting.

If you have any contributions or have some changes you'd like to see, please don't hesitate to get in touch with us at [info@theclimbingdepot.co.uk](mailto:info@theclimbingdepot.co.uk)

BIG Depots are the roped climbing facilities within the Depot Climbing group, offering all types of climbing styles from auto belays and top ropes to lead climbing. Climbing using a rope involves 2 people, but can be done in a group, with the person climbing the route tied to the rope that is controlled by another person (belayer) on the ground.

Top roping and lead climbing are the most popular forms of roped climbing. Top rope climbing is when the rope is already in place at the top of the wall, with the rope coming down to the climber from above.

Lead climbing is a more advanced technique where the climber manages the rope as they ascend the wall, clipping it to protection points as they move up.

Auto belay climbing is similar to top rope climbing, but without the need for a belayer to manage the rope from the bottom, instead, a mechanical device is located at the top of the route that has a mechanical breaking system to gently lower the climber to the ground when they either fall off the route or reach the top.

Bouldering is a style of climbing that does not involve ropes or a harness, climbing at lower levels and relying on matting underneath the wall to aid with the risk of falling. Our walls are up to 4 meters high, and the matting does not guarantee your safety, so roped climbing may be more suitable if you have reservations about the risks involved in bouldering.

## **About Us**

We opened our doors on December 21st, 2024, and became one of the UK's largest and most comprehensive mixed-use climbing centres, offering both roped climbing walls and bouldering. We have almost 1,000 square

meters of floor space and over 200 lines of roped climbing and auto-belay climbing for all abilities. We also offer over 200 boulders, some of which are on a mezzanine accessed via a wheelchair-accessible lift.

Our centre has a cafe and kitchen, both creating hand-crafted refreshments and fuel for your visit, so you can enjoy a relaxing space and for climbers of all backgrounds and abilities to socialise and integrate into a wonderful climbing community.

## How to Find Us

All directions and our address can be found on our [Contact Us page](#).

We have a free-to-use car park. However, we do share the industrial estate with others, so please park considerately. There are also 3 disabled parking spaces close to the accessible main entrance. If you have any issues with parking using the disabled spaces, our friendly team will be happy to help find a suitable space.

We have secure storage for bicycles outside and inside the centre and are just a short walk from the Baguely bus and tram stops and can be reached via the Navy line trams and the 11, 249, 751, 752 and 810 Altrincham buses.

## Costs & Discounts

We offer discounted entry to students and concessions on selected days and offer a Family Pass for those with young climbers.

You can find all the details of our [pricing information here](#). We ensure our prices are competitive and provide you with the best value, from climbing alone and with friends to instructor-led sessions.

## Using the Centre

All visitors need to check in to the building at our reception desk, whether they are climbing or not. If you have any specific accessibility needs, please let us know how our team can help, and if you'd prefer, we welcome a call ahead of time so that we can make your visit as comfortable as possible.

Our reception desk is found immediately upon entering the centre, and if you are visiting us for the first time, our friendly team will help get you set up and registered. If you have any questions, don't be shy; our teams love to help.

Regardless of whether you are climbing or supervising, all of our visitors are required to sign a registration form ([found here](#)) and answer a few quick safety questions from our staff.

If you've climbed at other centres (including Depot bouldering centres), but have not visited a BIG Depot Climbing centre, you will still need to register and answer safety questions related to roped climbing safety. Under 18's must have a registration completed by a legal parent or guardian.

All of our roped climbing routes have fixed anchors at the top of each line, with either a Petzl Easytop anchor or two opposing carabiners (snap gates). Auto belay lines usually have 3 routes per line, so please practice

consideration for other users. If you have any questions, our friendly and experienced staff are on hand to help.

When bouldering, down-climbing holds are identifiable as they have a red arrow pointing down on them, and we endeavour to put up as many of these as possible around the centre to aid with safely descending the walls.

We also provided weighted bags to assist with belaying. If you need any assistance with using these items, one of our knowledgeable members of staff will be happy to help.

We can run instructed accessible sessions for a range of people. Simple adapted climbing sessions are common for both children and adults, where we can help adapt the belaying or climbing elements for individuals with different needs, such as amputations, limited physical movement, sight loss or learning difficulties.

We work in conjunction with the [Leeds Paraclimbing Club](#), a Leeds-based charity that also operates in Manchester, to support its work in providing access for adults and children to the sport that otherwise may not have the opportunity to experience the world of indoor rock climbing.

We assist in hosting and staffing the club's weekly climbing sessions, which offer a space for people to experience climbing under the supervision of our instructors. The Leeds Paraclimbing Club provides funded progressive [NICAS \(National Indoor Climbing Award Scheme\)](#) sessions for children with disabilities, providing those who may have additional learning needs a space to complete NICAS courses.

## Wheelchair Access

Our centre is situated on 2 levels and is accessible via wheelchair, with easy access to the main climbing areas, cafe area, toilets, changing rooms and bouldering via our wheelchair-accessible lift. Wheelchairs are permitted on our roped climbing matting on the ground floor, but please note that wheelchairs are not permitted on the bouldering matting in our centre.

We have an Evac chair on site in case of emergency evacuation from the upper floors. This is accompanied by clearly marked emergency call points at the end of each floor.

## Toilets & Changing Rooms

We have accessible toilets and changing rooms positioned close to the entrance of the centre, with the main male and female toilets and changing rooms situated in the same location. There are further accessible toilets halfway down the building and on the bouldering mezzanine. Additional toilets and changing rooms will be added in our phase two development.

A gender-neutral disabled toilet for all can be found on the ground floor, which is fully accessible and has an emergency chord to alert staff if you need assistance. Baby-changing facilities can be found in this toilet too.

## Music

We play music in all areas of our centre and are more than happy to lower the sound level if this improves your interaction with us and fellow climbers.

## Storage

There are cubbies and lockers available for the safe storage of your belongings, but you will need to supply your own padlock and ensure that no belongings are left overnight. Storage can be found on the ground floor by our climbing area.

Any items of personal property left in the centre will be held in our lost property collection for up to two weeks, after which they will be donated to charity.

## Induction Video

Our induction video is fully subtitled for any deaf or hard-of-hearing climbers and has a voiceover for blind and partially sighted climbers.

This can be watched at the centre or in advance via our website. All participants will be required to watch the video before participating.

## Navigating Our Centre

As one of the largest climbing centres in the UK, we have endeavoured to make safe and accessible walking pathways around our centre. If you require assistance, please don't hesitate to ask a member of staff, who will be happy to help.

Our centre is signposted with braille 2.0 signage with clear visual graphics to aid wayfinding around the centre.

We ask you not to walk on the mats if you are not climbing, and food, drinks and pushchairs are not permitted on the mats. Wheelchair users can enter the roped climbing matting area on the ground floor via the ramps located at various points throughout the centre, but wheelchairs are not permitted on the bouldering matting. This is for the safety of all participants.

Fire exits are marked around the centre so you will never be too far from a safe exit in case of emergency. Wheelchair accessible exits are marked with appropriate signage. Emergency lighting will light any emergency exit pathways, and our fire assembly points are located in the car park at the front of our centre.

## Staff

Our team comprises a Centre Manager, an Assistant Manager and multiple Front of House Managers. The manager in charge of the shift can be requested at any time by asking at the front desk.

A trained first aider is always on hand, and we ask that you let us know of any injury sustained while using the centre.

We have an Evac chair on site in case of emergency evacuation from the upper floors. This is accompanied by clearly marked emergency call points and fire refuge areas at the end of each floor.

**Dan James**

CENTRE MANAGER

Depot Climbing is a trading name of the Yorkshire Climbing Company Ltd  
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