

Kit List - Rock Skills Learn to Lead Trad

We appreciate that you're still starting out and climbing kit can be pricey. We've ordered the list in terms of most importance, so it gives you an idea of where to spend your money and where savings can be made. We can lend all of the technical equipment so don't worry if you don't have all your own yet and it's good to get some advice before investing too much cash. Not all of the kit will be carried all the time, for example sun protection, but it's worth having kit to select from for the range of conditions the British weather can throw at us.

If you want any advice on kit, whether you're unsure of current kit's suitability, if you're looking to get some new kit, or if you're struggling to get certain bits, then get in touch and we'll try our best to help out.

Mobile Phone – please bring a waterproofed mobile phone for emergencies.

Climbing Shoes - we expect you'll have your own already, a comfy pair that can be worn all day is ideal for trad.

Harness - we expect you'll have your own. A comfy model with 4 or more gear loops for racking is best.

Chalk Bag - particularly useful for hot, sweaty days. but also marking foot holds We can lend a chalk bag if needed.

Approach Shoes - lightweight to walk-in to the crag, ideally that can be clipped to a harness to descend from routes.

Climbing Clothes - any loose fitting, stretchy clothes for climbing in. Ideally synthetic material over cotton.

Rucksack - a good day bag size is about 40+ litres. We really like Lowe Alpine packs.

Midlayers- again, no cotton so a fleece or similar you could wear under a harness.

Belay Jacket - we're a big fan of light primaloft jackets for throwing on at chilly belays or any warm over layer. Ideally something that you clip to the back of your harness.

Waterproof Top and Bottoms - these should be "Hard Shell", as opposed to "Soft Shell" material which is only water resistant! If it's torrential we'll likely climb indoors part of the day and but we'll use our specialist local knowledge to find the driest possible place to climb.

Hat - wooly or fleecy warm hat for chilly days. No bobbles as it'll need to go under your helmet!

Sun Hat, Sun Glasses, Sun Screen - with any luck we'll have great sunny weather!

Water Bottle - ultimately anything will do. Nalgene bottles are BPA free, durable and light and our favorite.

Food - anything light, tasty & full of energy that can survive being in a rucksack and maybe even stuffed in a pocket.

Optional Kit - We can lend a lot of what is here also but if you have your own it's worth bringing it along.

Helmet - we can provide but if you already have your own bring it along.

Belay Plate and Karabiner - we expect you'll probably have your own by now, we're a big fan of the DMM Pivot.

Prussiks - key personal equipment, if you're looking to buy we recommend 5 - 6mm width cord or even better, the [Beal Jammy](#) is pre-sewn and 5.5mm width, or the [Edelrid 30cm 6mm Aramid Cord Sling](#).

Nutkey - key to getting your gear back, I often carry mine on lead as well. DMM Nutbuster is a great example.

120cm Sling x 1 - useful bit of personal kit to have on you, we recommend the Edelrid Tech Web Sling.

Gloves - optional for cold weather days, mitts are best for warmth.

Flask - optional for cold weather days. Get a good leak proof one!

Guidebook - we'll provide guidebooks but you will probably want your own. [Ground Up North Wales Rock](#) (4th ed.) is a select guide covering all of North Wales, well produced with stunning photos and, importantly is accurate.

Climbing Rack - we can provide a rack, though bring anything you have. Our go-to Trad Rack looks like this;

2 Sets of Nuts on Wires - DMM Walnuts are our favorite, with a set of Wild Country Rocks to complement.

Set of Cams - DMM Dragons are our fave. A full set 0 - 6 is great if you can afford it, otherwise 2 - 5 to start with.

Or

Hexes - the cams above are pretty pricey, hexes cover the same larger sizes for a lot less money. Our favorites by far are the DMM Torque Nuts on dyneema which cover a really wide range compared to other designs.

12 Quickdraws - DMM Phantoms are awesome if they're not too small for your hands. 4 x 12cm, 4 x 16cm, 2 x 25cm and 2 x 60cm we think is a good mix. Quickdraws can be bought in packs but 60cm slings purchased separately.

120cm Slings x 3 - Dyneema are light and popular, we like Edelrid Tech Web Slings as they're a bit easier to unknit.

240cm Sling - giant sling! They can be a bit unwieldy and not often it's really needed if you're swinging leads with a similar level partner. Personally I tend to go for a 180cm sling though these can be harder to find.

Screwgates - 1 x large (DMM Boa or Shadow HMS) for clove hitches and 3 x D shapes (DMM Phantoms/Shadows).

Racking Carabiners - a hot topic! My top tip - don't go too small as to make them fiddly, I prefer carabiners that have a "nose" to help stop all your wires disappearing if you do something silly. Bonus points for colour co-ordinating with cam sizes and the rest of your rack. I like the DMM Waldo / Spectre as they're a good size and light.

Climbing Rope - a single rope, 60m is ideal when starting out. Half ropes are great for trad climbing, particularly multipitch but less versatile than a single rope which can also be used indoors and sport climbing.

If you're buying a few items of kit it's worth asking for a discount (most stores offer discount to [BMC members](#) (worthwhile joining), mountaineering club members, students etc. as standard).

We highly recommend [V12 Outdoor](#) in Llanberis. They are our favorite climbing shop with an amazing range of kit, super friendly and knowledgeable staff and they're local - 100m from our door in Llanberis! We've set up a 15% discount for Mountain Independence clients with them.

