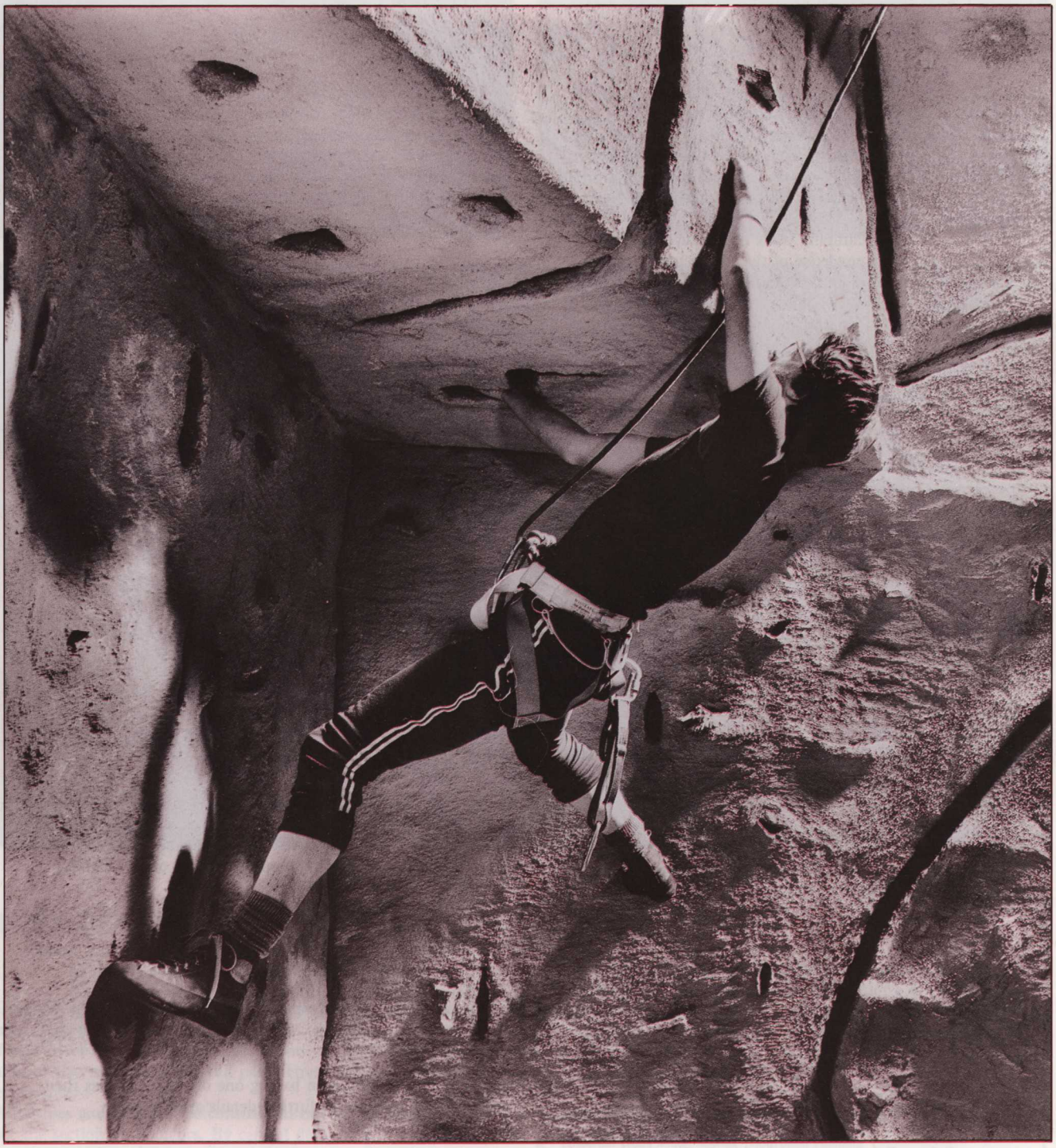
BENDCRETE

CLIMBING WALLS

constructed by experts...designed by highly experienced, active climbers



for climbers, sports centres, H.M. Forces, educational, local and governmental authorities

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CLIMBING WALLS

Rock climbing is an egalitarian sport, emphasising the qualities of sound judgement, adventure, physical achievement and companionship, which make it one of the most character building of the leisure activities.

To help simulate 'natural' climbing, climbers use climbing walls both for training and for practice when real crags are unavailable.

What is a Climbing Wall

Climbing walls are man made structures that reproduce the climbing situation and enable climbers to practise the increasingly popular sport of rock climbing. These training aids come in all shapes and sizes, from old bridges and disused railway embankments, to the well used purpose built climbing facilities that can be found within some modern sports complexes.

Unfortunately many climbing walls in the past have been designed with little knowledge of the requirements of rock climbing. This has led to the belief by many centre managers that climbing walls are unpopular and can be compared with activities such as ten pin bowling and skate boarding. This however is far from the truth, a well planned and carefully designed facility can provide a much needed service to both local and visiting climbers.

Why Choose Bendcrete?

At Bendcrete we make each climbing wall unique. Bendcrete is so versatile, that any feature that can be found on a natural outcrop can be realistically simulated. This makes Bendcrete popular with climbers because variety is important to relieve the boredom that can arise within training programmes.

We are able to design a wall specifically to suit our clients' needs, whether it is for the instruction of novices, the training of experts or a combination of both. Yet we are always happy to include the ideas of our customers whenever it is practical and cost effective. The reason we can give these assurances and include these realistic climbing features is because with Bendcrete, you will be working with climbers who have had the experience of thousands of climbing situations of all degrees of difficulty.

Bendcrete will build you the climbing wall that you and your clients want. Our designs meet with the approval of the British Mountaineering Council as well as the many thousands of climbers who use our existing walls. Choosing Bendcrete will give you a first class service, with top quality workmanship from the company that is leading the way in climbing wall construction and design inovation.

What is Bendcrete?

Bendcrete is a thin shell reinforced concrete technique which keeps weight to a minimum. Climbing walls are constructed from pre-fabricated panels which join together into a continuous wall. Almost any shape can be "bent" using this technique.

Rock Features

Bendcrete climbing walls can include any of the following in their designs. This allows the clients to pick which features they want on their wall.

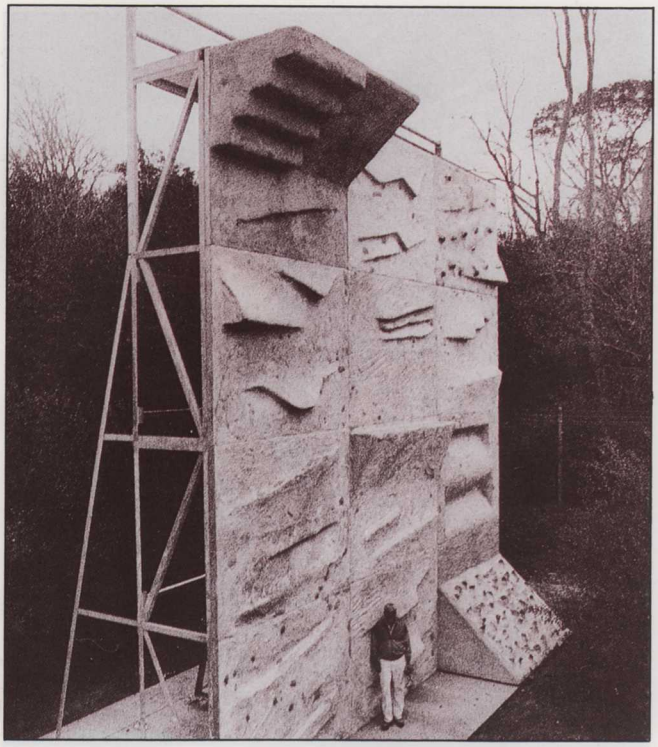
Overhangs, buttresses, cracks, chimneys, pinchgrips, jug handles, pressure holds, belay points (strategically placed for maximum protection, these can be built as spikes, chocks or eye bolts representing pitons) and ledges to belay from allowing two pitch climbing to take place. All or a combination of any of the above can be included depending upon the requirements of the specific project.

The Advantages:

1 Bendcrete allows a climbing wall to be built in stages. This enables easy budgeting for the purchaser and ensures continued variety and interest for the climber.
2 Bendcrete does not require expensive reinforced foundations to support the climbing structure. Most of our walls are either self supporting or can easily be tied into the framework of a building and are light enough for the existing foundations.
3 Expensive moulds are not required and it is therefore cheaper than fibreglass and cast concrete.
4 Shapes can be produced that would be impractical to mould.
5 Tremendous flexibility in design is possible. Special features can be incorporated and walls can be built to customers' own specifications.
6 It is impervious to weather and is ideal for indoor and outdoor use.
7 It can be installed into existing buildings and even used to extend or up-grade outdated and unsatisfactory climbing walls.
8 All stone eventually wears with use but refacing worn holds is simple and inexpensive to carry out.
9 The holds as contact points are natural rock and the walls can be finished to simulate limestone, gritstone, granite or sandstone.
10 No wall is too big or too small, by purposeful design the maximum use can be made out of even the smallest of areas.
11 It is suitable for the expert and novice and it provides the irregular contours of rock rarely seen on other climbing walls.
12 Any type of footwear can be used.
13 Each wall is unique.
14 Every year we continue to develop and improve our designs. Research and testing are two areas which enable us to continue to maintain our high safety record.
15 Our walls can be enlarged and improved easily as and when funds allow or tuned to improve particular climbs or routes.

If you are interested in having one of these facilities then telephone us now for further details and estimates.
Tel. 0625 619008

Cover: *Kelsey Kerridge Climbing Wall: photo* A. M. Photographic



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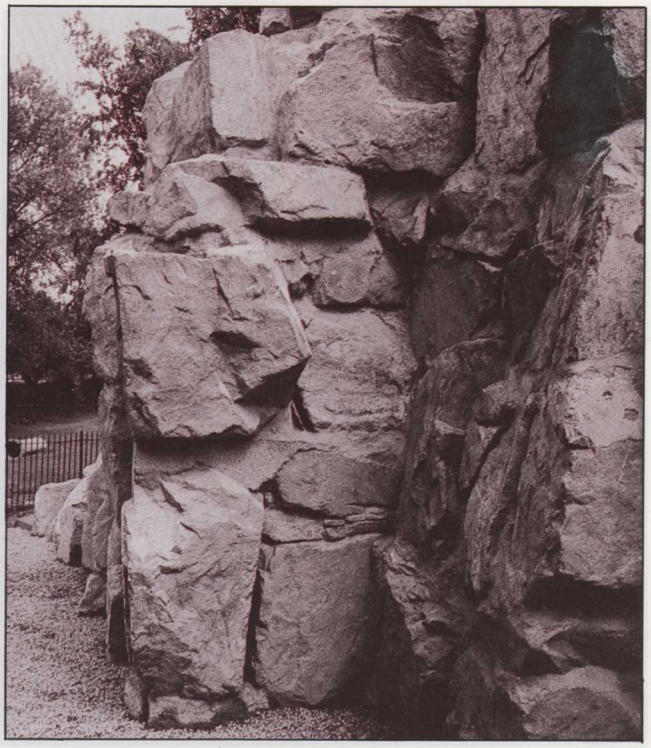

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OUTDOOR TOWERS AND WALLS

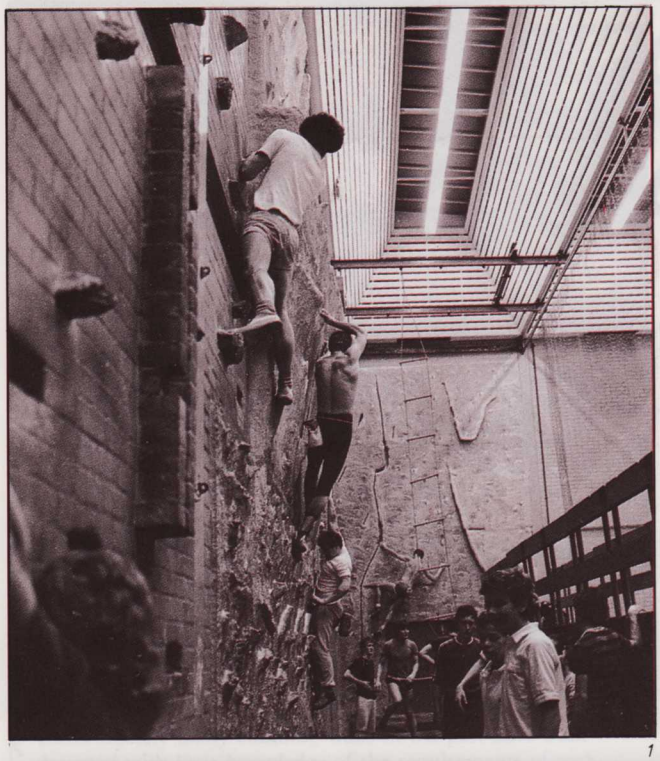
Climbing towers can be sited almost anywhere, bringing the most authentic climbing situations of any artificial structure. These Mini-Mountains are ideal for both the novice and expert alike as they emphasize the full parametres of the rock climbing experience.

All shapes and sizes can be constructed but for the smallest ones see the section on boulders. By careful design these towers can continue to be used for climbing in all but the very worst weather conditions.

1 *H.M. Coastguard cliff rescue practice tower Christchurch: photo Gordon Bendall.*

2 *Emberton Crags Milton Keynes: photo John Timmins.*

3 *A model of a 24m high proposed climbing complex: photo Ken Wilson.*



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DO YOU HAVE A SPARE WALL? Are You Making Maximum Use Of Your Available Space?

If you have one then, why not consider adding another facility to your building with a carefully designed climbing wall. This additional facility, constructed in a previously under-used area will attract new faces into your leisure complex providing yet another potential revenue stream.

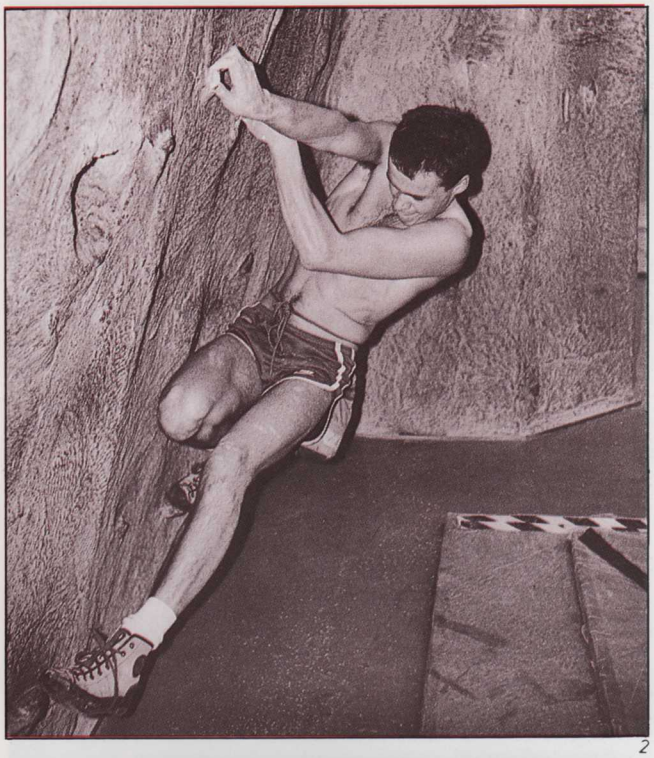
All grades of climbing can be catered for on a Bendcrete climbing wall and each wall can include the features that you want, whether it be overhangs for the 'hardman' or easy angled slabs for the novice.

Bendcrete walls can easily be accommodated into budgets as their construction technique allows them to be built in stages. It is easy to add further features as and when funds become available.

1 *A busy evening at Brunel University climbing wall: photo Ian Smith.*

2 *A corridor wall can provide a good facility. Michael Sobell Centre: photo Ian Smith.*

3 *Areas with compatible activities are ideal. Kelsey Kerridge Sports Hall Cambridge: photo Ian Smith.*



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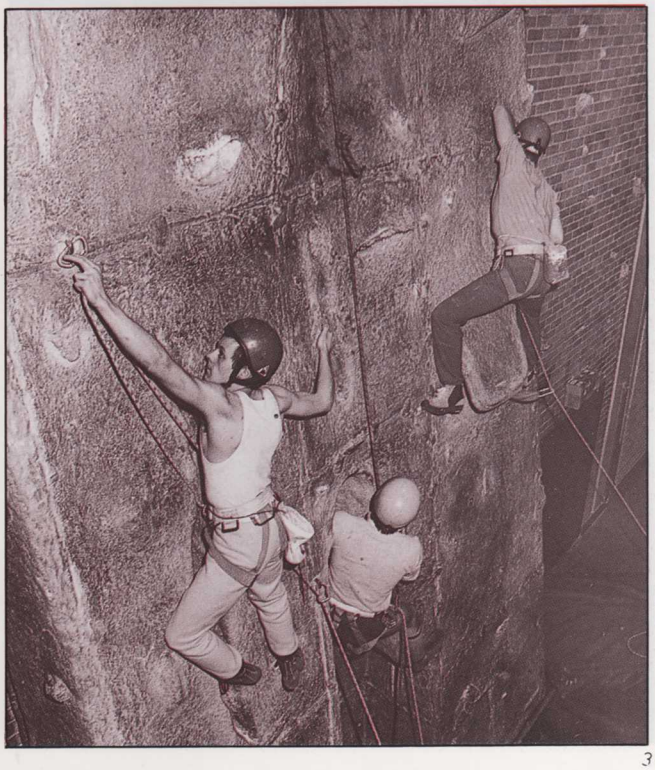

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INDOOR CRAGS

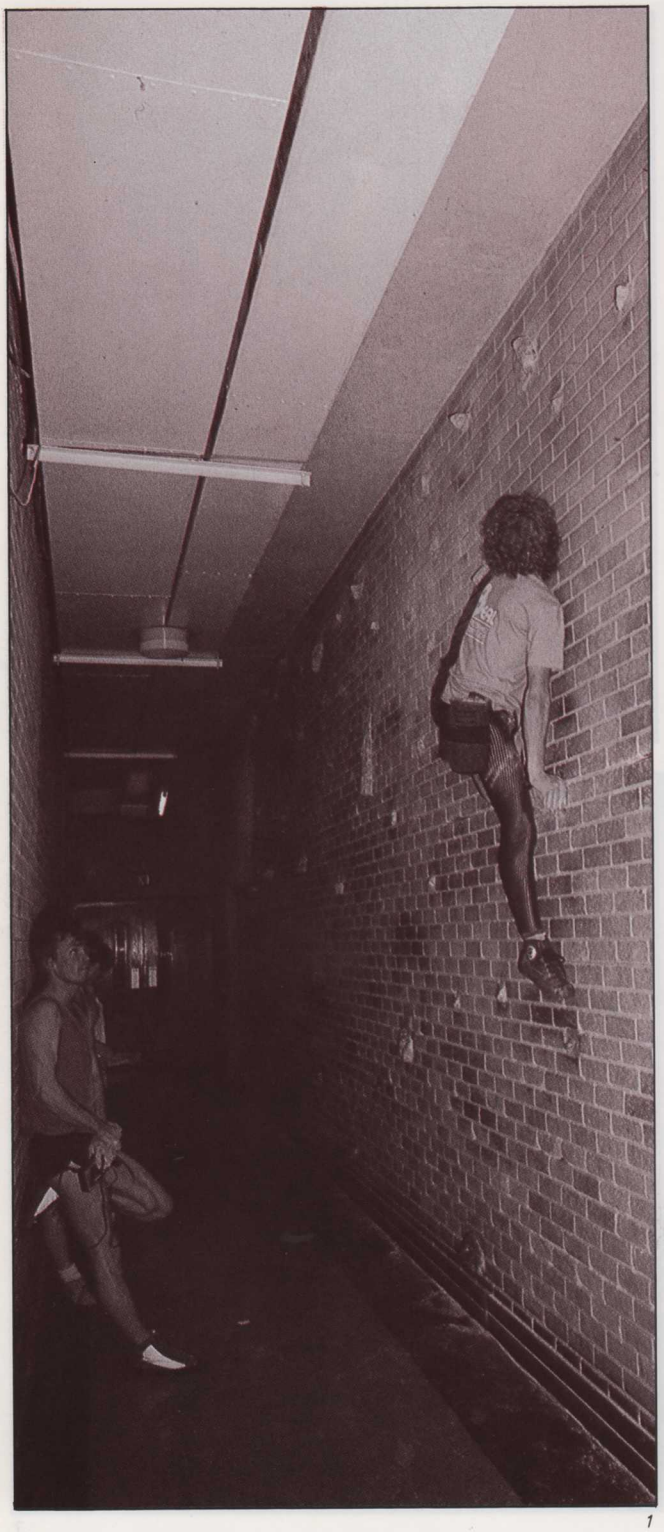
Many climbing walls do not fulfil the demand that exists from climbers for a warm dry training area, mainly to use on the long winter evenings and on wet weekends.
This is unfortunately because of their unrealistic design that bears little or no resemblance to those features found on a natural crag.
At Bendcrete only highly experienced climbers design the climbing walls and they incorporate into each wall many realistic climbing situations that they can recall from their experience.

Bendcrete will be pleased to advise you whether it be; how to improve your existing climbing wall, or in designing a completely new facility using the very latest climbing wall technology. As in the above picture we can even include hydraulics that give endless variations from slabs to overhanging walls.

1 *Hydraulics can be installed to create climbs for all grades of climbers. The Link Centre Swindon: photo Peter Debbidge.*

2 *Difficult climbing on the Kelsey Kerridge climbing wall: photo Ian Dunn*

3 *The Michael Sobell Centre climbing wall: photo Ian Smith.*



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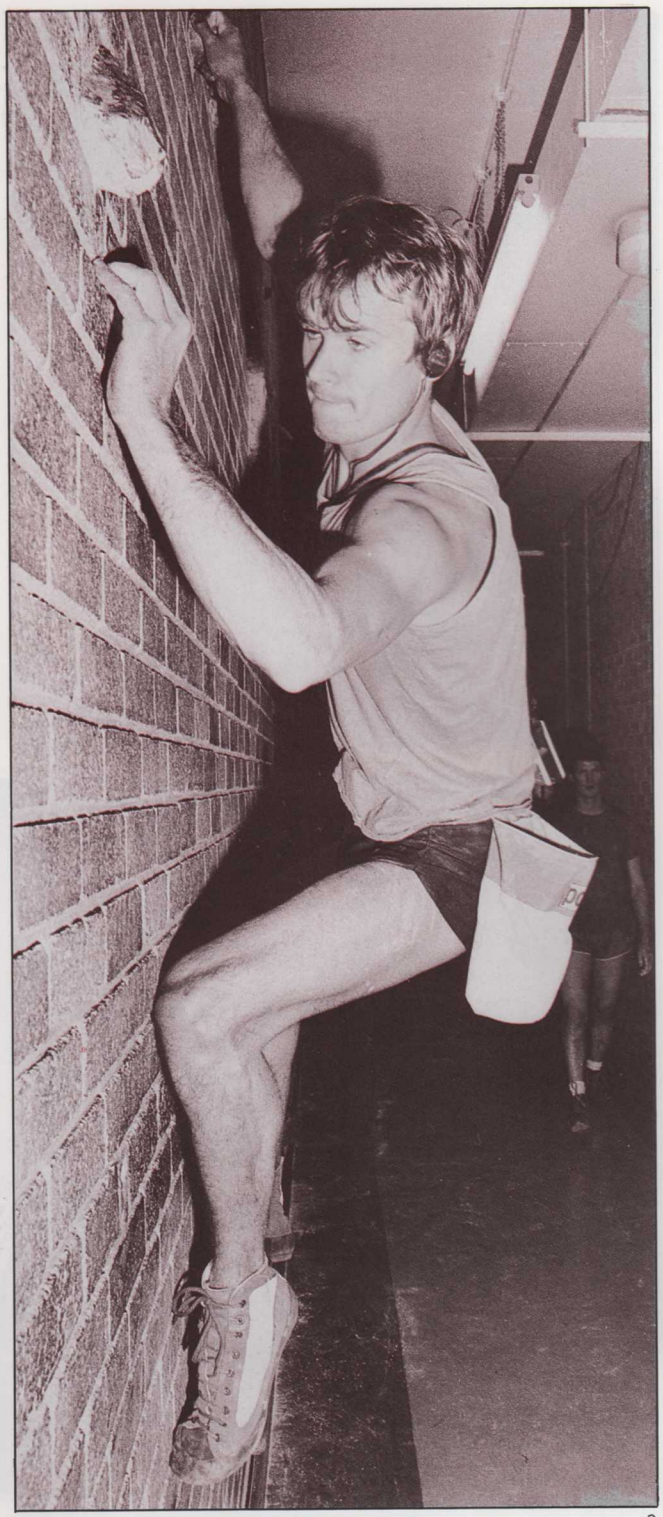

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TRAINING FACILITIES

The modern rock climber is a gymnast with a sense of adventure. Climbers like all other athletes, spend many hours training, but unfortunately good training facilities for climbers are rare.

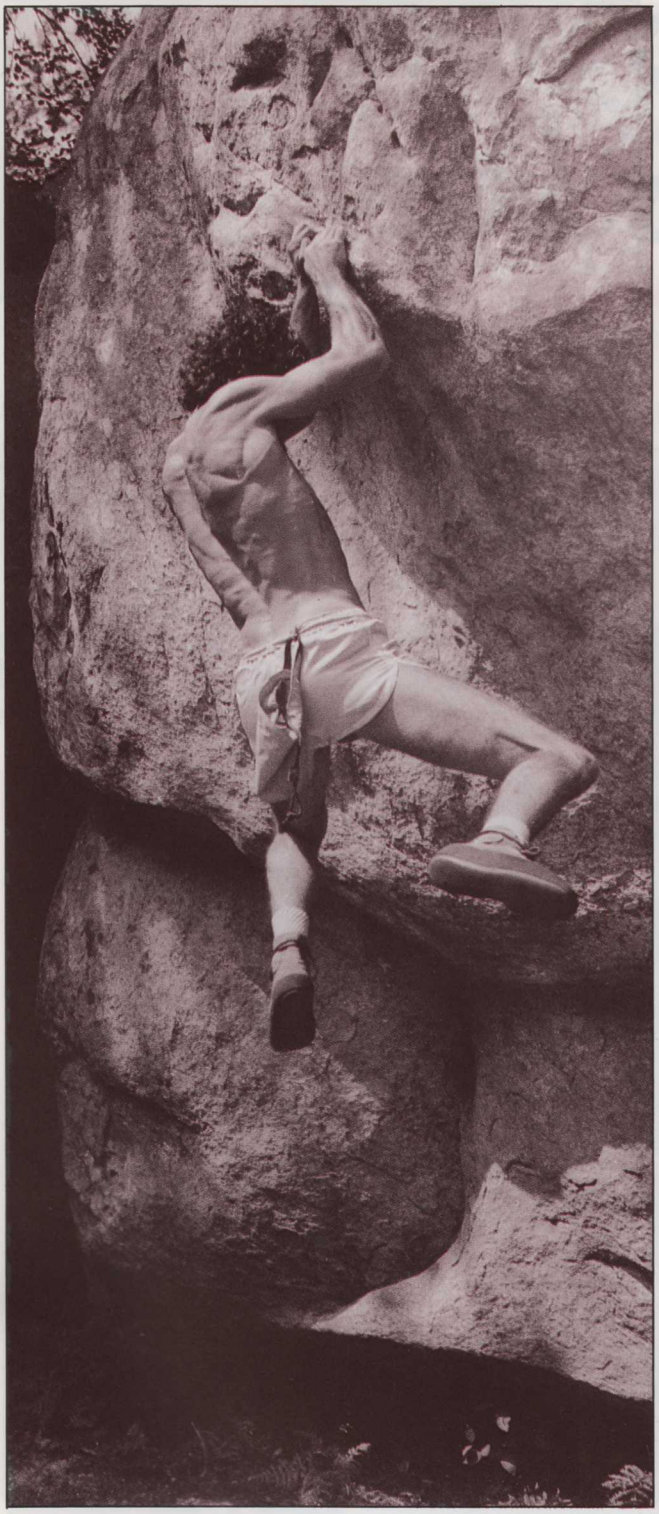
With modern developments height is not of primary importance as a wall may only need to be one or two moves high (3.5-5m). Distance is of far greater interest, as climbers often wish to move horizontally near to the ground whilst training for stamina. An unbroken wall of between 20-30m in length can easily provide a good training facility. These facilities have already been fitted successfully into existing corridor walls.

This type of climbing wall is inexpensive to construct and it is just the type of facility that many experienced climbers are looking for.

If you wish to extend the activities you already encompass then why not consider a Bendcrete Training Wall?

1 *Walls do not need to be high to provide interest: photo Ian Smith.*

2 *Training on a difficult stamina traverse at the Michael Sobell Centre: photo Ian Smith.*



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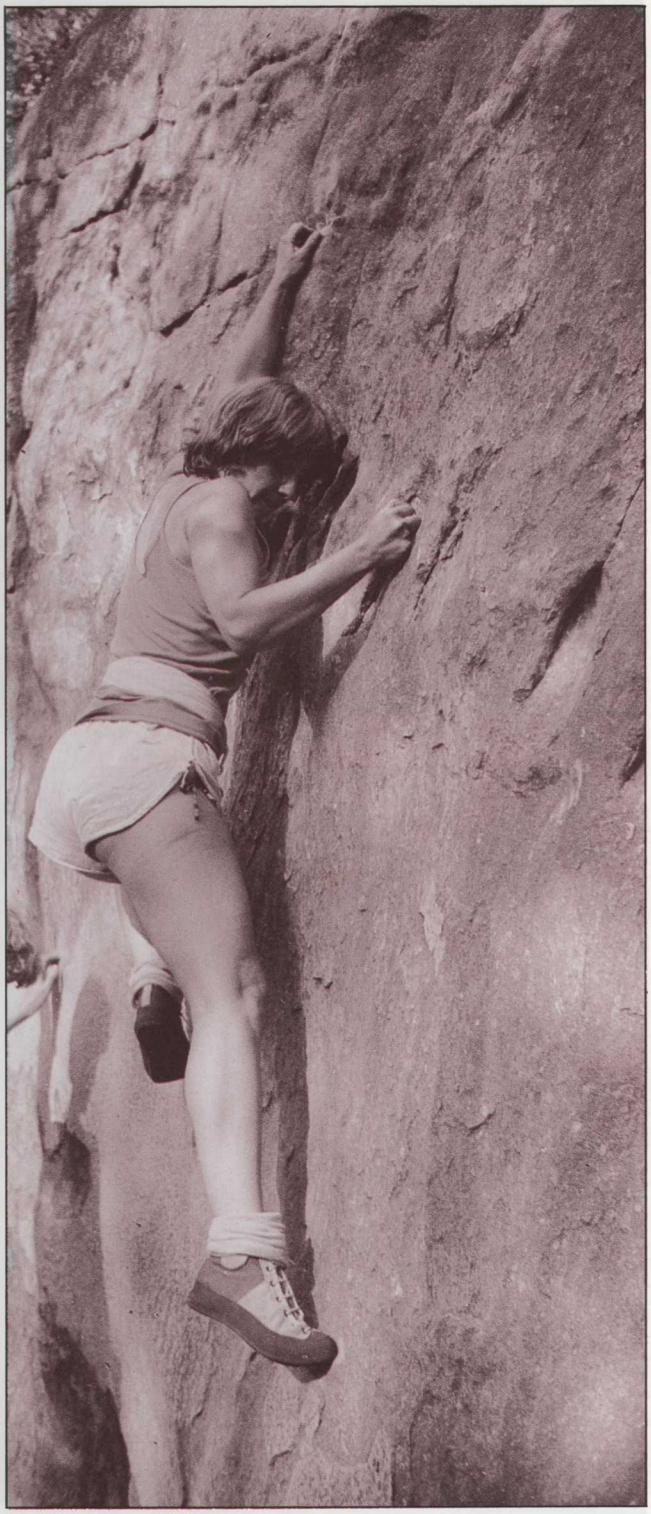

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BOULDERS

Bouldering is one of the oldest and most enjoyable forms of free climbing as it enables climbers to improve their technique within a safe environment.

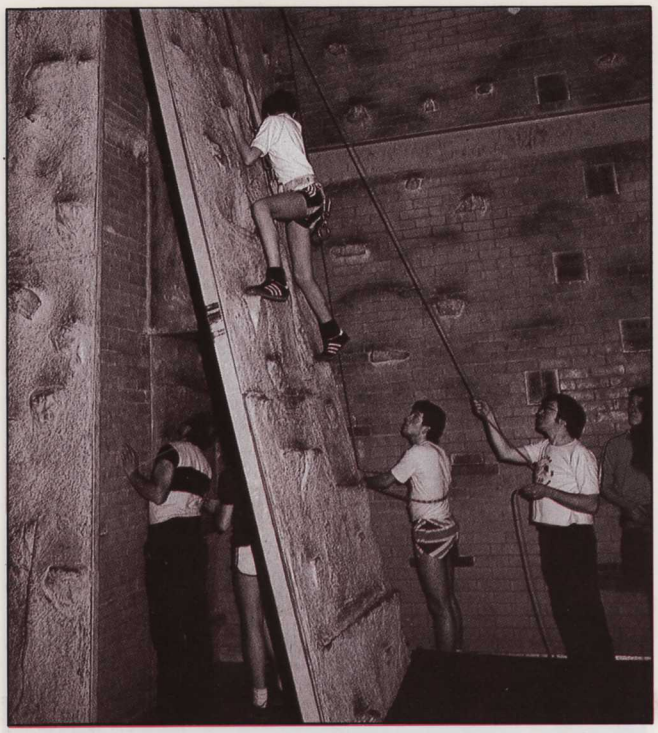
At Bendcrete we can build you your own unique boulder or a cluster of different shaped boulders similar to those that make places such as Fontainbleau universally known amongst climbers.

Boulders can be sited in areas of open ground, parks or recreation grounds or under motorway bridges. They should have a pea gravel base which forms a good safe landing area and also allows climbers to keep their boots clean and dry before climbing.

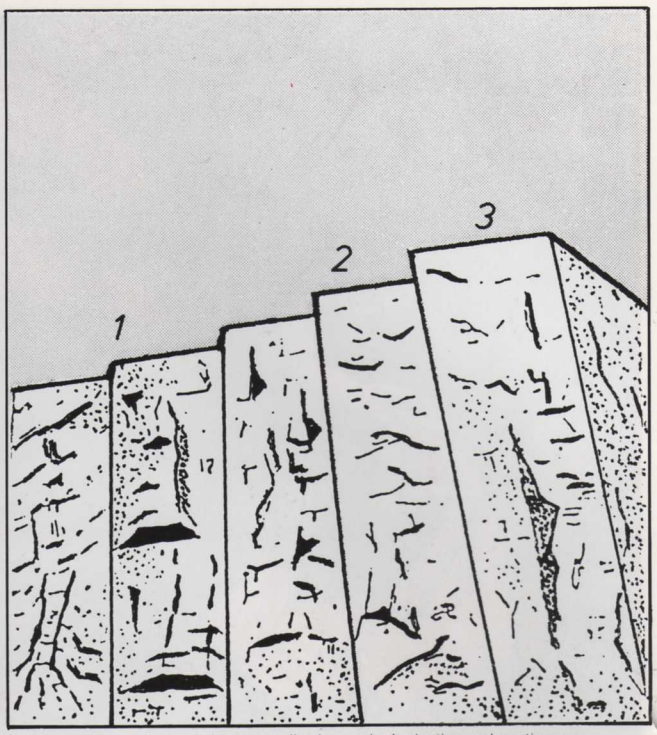
If you have a potential site for a boulder then contact us and we will be pleased to advise you on the best type of facility to construct and give you an estimate of the cost.

1 Tackling a difficult boulder problem on the rocks in the Forest of Fontainbleau (France): photo Ian Dunn.

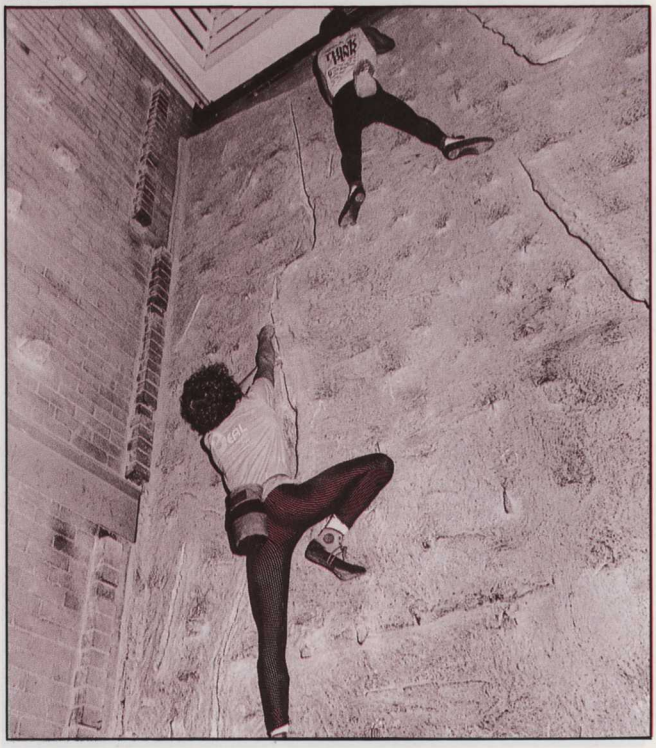
2 Tiny finger and footholds develop balance and strength: photo Ian Dunn.



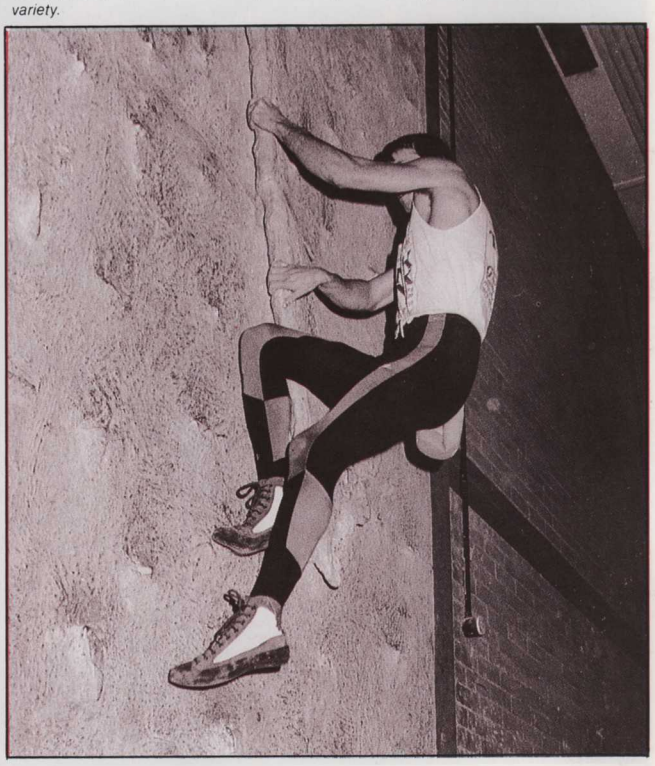
New features have increased the usage of the Brunel University climbing wall: photo Ian Smith.



Developments can be made in stages allowing easier budgeting and continuous variety.



New climbs simulating recognised routes prove very popular: photo Ian Smith.



Another popular climb at the Brunel University climbing wall: photo Ian Smith.

MODIFICATIONS TO EXISTING FACILITIES

It is vital that interest is maintained with your climbing wall. The easiest way to ensure continued success and enthusiasm from the climbers is to update and develop your facility. This can be done by the simple addition of a few strategically placed holds on a training facility or by the creation of a completely new feature such as an overhang or buttress on a larger project.
Even if you have an unimaginatively designed brick and concrete wall Bendcrete would be able to develop new features that will greatly improve its appeal to the local climbers.