

Risk assessment

Name of Section or Activity	Knotwork & Pioneering	Date of risk assessment	28 th November 2020	Name of who undertook this risk assessment	Tris Cocks
		Date of next review	April 2027		

Hazard Identified? / Risks from it?	Who is at risk?	How are the risks already controlled? What extra controls are needed?	What has changed that needs to be thought about and controlled?
<i>Hazard – something that may cause harm or damage. Risk – the chance of it happening.</i>	Young people, Leaders, Visitors?	<i>Controls – Ways of making the activity safer by removing or reducing the risk from it. For example - you might use a different piece of equipment or you might change the way the activity is carried out.</i>	Keep checking throughout the activity in case you need to change it...or even stop it! This is a great place to add comments which will be used as part of the review.
Rope / String – Strangulation, eye damage, Burns	All	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any excess rope to be hanked or tied to poles to prevent hanging loops that could cause strangulation Ropes not to be whipped or swung around If String / Rope is being cut and ends being Melted / Sealed. Cold water to be available to prevent burns. 	
Poles – Crush, Head &, hand injuries	All	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Care to be taken when moving & lifting poles & equipment, Long poles should be moved by a person at each end to keep the end of the poles controlled. Supervision to be given to young people whilst moving poles. 	
Anchors & Pulleys – Hand injuries, Trips, High tension ropes.	All	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Suitable size anchors to be used for the project Care to be taken when installing anchors; Persons to be out of swing from the Hammer Ropes to be used for pulleys to be checked for suitability and for damage prior to use Tensioning line for the pulley to be securely tied after tension applied. 	
Manual Handling – Strains, injuries	All	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Heavy items to be lifted with multiple persons All persons to be briefed only to lift items they are comfortable with moving and to ask for help if required 	
Slips, Trips & Falls – Injury, Sprains	All	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All persons to be told not to stand on loose poles Care to be taken whilst transiting through area where project is being constructed 	

Additional information can be found in the [Safety Checklist for Leaders](https://scouts.org.uk/safety) and other information at scouts.org.uk/safety

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Construction & Dismantling – Entrapment of Fingers, Hands etc. between poles	All	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Activity lead is to be competent of leading pioneering projects • Leaders and participants to be briefed about how to safely build and construct the project. • Knots & Lashings to be checked and redone should they be loose • Leaders to remain vigilant at all times 	
Heights – Falls, Collapsing structures	All	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guy lines and Anchors to be checked by a competent leader prior to using structure • Knots to be checked for security prior to structure being used • Structure not to be overloaded with people during use. • Continuous monitoring of Guy lines, Anchors and knots whilst structure is being used. • No horseplay whilst using the structure 	
Weather – Slips, soft ground	All	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If raining, care is to be taken as poles will be slippery • If raining, the ground may become soft and cause the structure to be unstable; Monitor of the ground and changing location if necessary • If using Hemp Rope, check the tightness of guy lines as rope contracts when wet, potential for Anchors to be pulled out of ground 	
Weather – Sunstroke, Hypothermia, Sunburn,	All	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weather to be checked prior to commencing activity; Activity to be modified to suit weather conditions. • Correct Clothing for weather to be checked prior to commencing activity i.e. Waterproofs, Sun hat, Coat, Hat etc. 	
Behaviour	All	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Behavioural expectations of all persons involved in the activity to be briefed before the activity commences. 	
Supervision	All	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supervision of YP to be within minimum ratios as specified in POR. 	
First Aid	All	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At least one leader to hold a current first aid qualification and to have easy access to a first aid kit suitable for the activity. 	

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Checked by Line Manager	Paul Woodward AGSL 10 th December 2020	Checked by Executive	Lesley Dingle Group Chair 11 th February 2021
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Version Control

Date	Version	Changed by	Comments
28 th November 2020	1	Tris Cocks	Initial Version
28 th August 2023	1.1	Paul Woodward	Reviewed
17 th February 2026	1.2	Paul Woodward	Reviewed