

15th Wisbech - Barton Crofts

Pioneering Activities At Barton Crofts

Overview

Pioneering is a safe and enjoyable activity, however by nature the activity involves some risk.

There is a wide range of equipment available including, travelling blocks, standard block and tackle, ropes and a variety of pioneering poles.

Essential to the safe use of the equipment is:

- Condition checks prior to use.
- Adequate supervision.
- Use of equipment suitable for the age group of participants.
- Construction height appropriate to age group.

Overall activity responsibility lies with the activity leader in charge.

Location

At Barton's croft all open field areas are suitable for pioneering activities.

It is not permissible to use trees etc for pioneering unless by prior agreement or with a representative of the group present.

Construction of aerial runways is only permitted with prior agreement and must be constructed following P.O.R (Aerial runway code).

Equipment

All equipment must be returned to the correct storage location when not in use.

Equipment must be stored in a tidy condition.

Any damage must be reported to Group representatives so it can be either repaired, inspected or removed from service.

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Activity Content

Take consideration of age/learning ability, physical capability and any medical conditions.

Individual activities are variable and bespoke. Additional focused risk assessment should be considered in addition to the below.

Risk Assessment For:	Pioneering						Completed By: Ian Bullard (GSL)	Date Carried Out: 02/05/2026	
	No Control			With Control					
Hazard	Likelihood	Severity	Risk	Likelihood	Severity	Risk	Who Is At Risk	No Of People	Controls
<p>Supervising Leaders are aware of the policy and organisational rules of The Scout Association relating to this activity. All participants must demonstrate appropriate levels of maturity, self control, competency and ability to follow instruction at all times.</p>									
Poor Behaviour	3	4	12	2	3	6	Instructors & Participants	Up to 12	All participants must demonstrate appropriate levels of maturity, self control, competency and ability to follow instruction at all times. Prior to and during activity. Participants must be aware of and follow the code of conduct. Rules and discipline to be adhered to at all times.
Trips, Slips & Falls	4	3	12	1	3	3	Instructors & Participants	12 +	Supervisors to assess conditions prior to activity, activity not to be carried out in wet conditions. Terrain to be evaluated and hazards identified. Safety briefing to be carried out prior to activity. Competent individuals to supervise. Care to be taken when moving equipment to and from storage locations. Suitable number of people to move heavy items. Correct clothing and footwear to be worn.

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			9			3			No running with equipment. Trailing ropes, poles and equipment on ground to be identified. Equipment not in immediate use to be located in a safe area. If at height appropriate safeguards must be used supported with an additional bespoke risk assessment. Height must be age specific.
Equipment failure	3	3	9	1	3	3	Participants	12 +	Ensure equipment is well maintained. Inspect equipment prior to, following and at least once during, use. DO NOT USE DAMAGED EQUIPMENT. Do not use frayed, damaged or poorly repaired rope. Maintain awareness for potential harm. Damaged equipment must be reported to Group representative.
Rope burns	3	3	9	1	3	3	Instructors & Participants	12 +	Use suitable PPE or equipment. Ensure adequate training.
Manual handling	3	3	9	2	3	6	Instructors & Participants	12 +	Assess participants ability to move equipment. Clear safety briefing, ensure participant maturity. Maintain awareness for potential harm. Ensure suitable numbers for moving heavy items. Positioning of heavy items or constructions must be supervised by a competent person.
Struck by objects being moved	4	3	12	2	3	6	Instructors & Participants	12 +	Assess participants ability to move equipment. Clear safety briefing, ensure participant maturity.

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				12			3			Maintain awareness for potential harm. Raise non participants awarness.
Falling from height		4	3	12	1	3	3	Instructors & Participants	12 +	Assess participants ability, ensure participant maturity. Awareness for potential harm. Supervisors to assess conditions prior to activity. Activity not to be carried out in wet conditions. Safety briefing to be carried out prior to activity. Competent individuals to supervise. Correct clothing and footwear to be worn. No running on equipment. Height appropriate safeguards must be used supported with an additional bespoke risk assessment. Height must be age specific.
Construction collapse/failure		4	3	12	1	3	3	Instructors & Participants	12 +	Safety briefing to be carried out prior to activity. Awareness for potential harm. Competent individuals to supervise Supervisors to assess construction prior to and during use. Activity not to be carried out in wet conditions. Construction must be located away from tents. Knots, lashings & anchors must be checked for quality, tightness and security before and during activity. Construction must be securely footed.

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Third party/bystander injury		2	3	6	1	2	2	Instructors, Participants & Third Parties	12 +	Area must be clearly identified as a risk zone and bystanders/passers-by made aware of risks.	
Environmental damage		4	3	12	3	3	9	Environment	N/A	Trees not to be used without authorisation from Group representative. Protective measures to be taken.	
Likelihood: 1=Very Unlikely, 2=Unlikely, 3=Possible, 4=Very Likely, 5=Certain				Severity: 1=Trivial Injury, 2=Minor Injury, 3=Major Injury, 4=Single Fatality, 5=Multiple Fatality				Risk: Likelihood x Severity			