


RISK ASSESSMENT

LOCATION/ACTIVITY/ISSUE BEING ASSESSED:	Pioneering Dinton Activity Centre		
SERVICE/TEAM:	Countryside Service		
NAME OF ASSESSOR(s):	Mike Bennett		
DATE OF ASSESSMENT:	01 December 2025		
DATE FOR REVIEW:	December 2026		
APPROVED BY:	Signature:	Date: 03/03/2026	
			
	Name: Gemma Wilford		

SUMMARY (* delete as appropriate)	
Risk level without additional controls:	HIGH / MEDIUM / LOW
Additional control measures required:	YES / NO
Risk level with additional controls:	HIGH / MEDIUM / LOW

What are the significant hazards?	What could go wrong? Who could be harmed and how?	What is being done to control the risks?	Amendment notes
Manual handling including dropping of items and other participants.	<p>Anyone could be harmed due to poor lifting technique, Lifting/carrying something that is too heavy or by having the equipment dropped on them. When carrying long items such as the wooden poles they may swing and hit others.</p> <p>Structure collapsing</p> <p>Participants Staff</p>	<p>Participants should be supervised by leaders.</p> <p>Leaders to ensure participants are trained on correct lifting & carrying procedures.</p> <p>Clear briefings given, understanding checked.</p> <p>Carry in pairs, work together to hold logs in place.</p> <p>Structures monitored during construction phase and checked before participants climb on structures.</p>	

		<p>Challenge to match the age and ability of the group</p> <p>Everyone to wear closed toed footwear.</p>	
<p>Slips, trips, falls injury Falling from height Crush injuries Rope burn</p>	<p>Anyone can be affected by Slips, trips, falls and injury. Any equipment left lying around poses a risk.</p> <p>Falling into the Embrook whilst crossing bridge structures.</p> <p>Participants Staff</p>	<p>Do not stand on spars during construction</p> <p>Do not run in the construction area</p> <p>Keep fingers & long hair away from moving parts</p> <p>Consider the ground the structure is being erected on, e.g., too muddy/slippery.</p> <p>Helmets to be worn at all times.</p> <p>Participants must not wrap ropes around themselves.</p> <p>Participants told not to run around structures to avoid tripping over guy lines.</p> <p>First aid kit to be taken to the construction site / activity area.</p> <p>Group leader to have a mobile phone and working radio to establish contact in an emergency.</p> <p>Whistle for getting the groups immediate attention if something is seen to be unsafe.</p> <p>Groups to be aided over bridge constructions by instructor if deemed necessary.</p>	

		Participants briefed on safe way to cross bridge constructions.	
Entrapment due to collapse of structure, entrapment in moving parts	Participants Staff	Guidance sheets on build / construction to be used for more complicated structures.	
Extreme Weather	Anyone can be harmed by the effects of extreme weather from high winds causing things to blow over and fall on people or the risk of lightning strikes. Participants Staff	Participants should seek shelter in the case of strong winds, electrical storms, heavy rain. Take extra care after periods of cold or wet weathers of slippery surfaces. Take caution after high winds of trees that may have loosened.	
Breakages	Participants Staff	Construct structure away from things that can be broken, e.g., windows	
Equipment failure Splinters	Instructors/leaders and participants can be harmed by the failure of equipment. It can fall onto people, cause people to fall off or cause and entrapment hazard. Participants Staff	Check over wood before use to check for any large splinters or cracks, in case of finding any do not use Instructor to check any load bearing ropes and metal work before use. Rigging ropes (static line) to be checked before session.	
Contact with dog and wildlife faeces or urine	Dog faeces around the pioneering building area of Lea Heath. Wildfowl faeces Diseases from bacteria Participants Staff	Instructor to check build area before sessions and clear any dog faeces. Participants advised not to touch animal faeces. Instructors advised to wash their hands as soon as possible if come into contact with wildfowl faeces.	

<p>Falling in the Embrook during bridge building</p>	<p>Risk of drowning</p> <p>In very cold and windy conditions risk of hypothermia</p> <p>Waterborne diseases such as Weil's Disease</p> <p>Participants Staff</p>	<p>Participants briefed on dangers and locations of water and the safety protocol of being around the water's edge.</p> <p>Participants are overseen by an instructor where possible around hazards.</p> <p>Participants advised of emergency procedure if a member of their team falls in the water.</p> <p>All participants to wash hands before eating.</p> <p>Bridge crossing will not take place if the river is in flood. Anything deeper than adult welly depth.</p>	
<p>Hit by the catapult projectiles. Hit by the catapult components.</p>	<p>Projectiles and catapult parts could fly into people</p> <p>Participants Public Staff</p>	<p>Only soft projectiles to be used.</p> <p>Instructors to check elastic launch assembly is properly connected to the frame to prevent it disconnecting during use.</p> <p>Exclusion zone around the catapults. Stop if public wander into exclusion zone.</p> <p>Participants briefed to not go in front of catapults.</p>	

REVIEWS AND REVISIONS					
Review date	Name of Assessor	Is assessment still valid?	If not, list adjustments with details of who will action and by when	Approved by Manager	Date of next review
Feb 2020	Nicola Dennis	Yes	Increased info on bridge crossing pioneering challenge. Pioneering assembly sheets and delivery cards to be produced for instructors – before Easter Holidays.	Tanya Lee	Feb 2021
March 2021	Sophie Wooldridge	Yes	Updated references to COP's	Jack Walling	Feb 2022
Feb 2022	Nicola Dennis	Yes	Updated references to COPs		

Feb 2023	Isabel R.S.	Yes	Updated references to COPs, Section on building catapults added.	Richard Ashwell	March 2024
Dec 23	Mike Bennett	Yes	Reference to spider's web activity removed as not part of Pioneering & present in Team Challenges Risk Assessment.	Richard Ashwell	March 2025
Dec 24	Mike Bennett	Yes	Removed section with regards to hammering anchors into ground as this doesn't happen with this activity in the last few years.	Mike Bennett	Dec 2025