



Overstone Scout Campsite & Activity Centre

Overstone Scout Campsite & Activity Centre – Pioneering Equipment (Updated 11th March 2026) – This risk assessment covers the general risks that could be experienced with regards to the storage and use of the Pioneering Equipment on site at Overstone. This risk assessments also identifies further controls that groups using the Campfire Circle should consider or implement.

This risk assessment does not cover the specific hazards and risks and how they are controlled when the Pioneering Equipment is being used. That RA is the responsibility of the Leader in Charge / Supervisor / Instructor.

This RA should be read in conjunction with the Overstone Scout Campsite & Activity Centre – General Risk Assessment.

All users of the Pioneering Equipment should use this risk assessment as a reference but must produce their own RA, based on, but not limited to, the individuals and numbers within their group using the Pioneering Equipment as well as any other equipment they may use. This should include any equipment supplied directly from Overstone or brought in by the Group.

Hazard Identified? / Risks from it?	Who is at risk?	How are the risks already controlled?	What further controls will be implemented to reduce the risk further.
Hazard – Use of Pioneering Equipment Risk – Injury or Death	All Users	The AST have written this generic Risk Assessment that looks at Hazards and Risks associated with using the Pioneering Equipment. It does not take into account the specific Hazards and Risks in respect to running the Pioneering Activity. Pioneering Poles and lashing ropes are inspected and maintained at regular intervals.	The Leader in Charge / Supervisor / Instructor should write an appropriate RA with respect to running the Pioneering Activity. This RA should take into account the Hazards, Risks and Controls that have been identified in this document. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pioneering should only be carried out under the control of a responsible, competent and experienced Leader in Charge / Supervisor / Instructor. Pioneering Poles should only be used for pioneering projects. At the end of the pioneering project all lashing ropes must be safely coiled and returned to the rope store.

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At the end of the activity all poles must be returned to the pole storage rack and placed in the correct shelf. Users should report any damage and report any concerns they have to feedback.overstone@northamptonscouts.org.uk
<p>Hazard – Damaged Pioneering Poles</p> <p>Risk – Injury or Death</p>	All Users	The poles are checked at regular intervals. Damaged poles are removed from the pole storage.	<p>The Leader in Charge / Supervisor / Instructor should write an appropriate RA with respect to running the Pioneering Activity. This RA should take into account the Hazards, Risks and Controls that have been identified in this document.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Users must not use any pioneering pole that appears to be cracked or damaged. Any potentially damaged poles must not be returned to the pole storage shelves but must be placed behind the pole store. Users should report any damage and report any concerns they have to feedback.overstone@northamptonscouts.org.uk
<p>Hazard – Damaged Lashing Ropes</p> <p>Risk – Injury</p>	All Users	The lashing ropes are checked at regular intervals. Any unsuitable ones are either repaired or removed.	<p>The Leader in Charge / Supervisor / Instructor should write an appropriate RA with respect to running the Pioneering Activity. This RA should take into account the Hazards, Risks and Controls that have been identified in this document.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Users should not use lashing ropes that have knots along their length or are frayed at the ends. If possible, remove knots and apply basic whipping to the frayed ends. Users should report any damage and report any concerns they have to feedback.overstone@northamptonscouts.org.uk
<p>Hazard – Transporting Pioneering Poles</p> <p>Risk – Injury or Death</p>	All Users	When not in use all pioneering poles must be stored in the pole storage rack. Longest and heaviest at the bottom. The bottom ends of the poles are colour coded for size and length.	The Leader in Charge / Supervisor / Instructor should write an appropriate RA with respect to running the Pioneering Activity. This RA should take into account the Hazards, Risks and Controls that have been identified in this document.

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Users must ensure that two people are always used to carry each pole to and from the pole storage, with one person at each end of the pole.
<p>Hazard – Thick Ropes</p> <p>Risk – Injury or Death</p>	All Users	<p>The thick ropes in the rope store are all labelled with their thickness and length and must be stored correctly coiled and hanging from the rope storage rack.</p> <p>The thick ropes are checked at regularly intervals. Any damaged ones are removed.</p>	<p>The Leader in Charge / Supervisor / Instructor should write an appropriate RA with respect to running the Pioneering Activity. This RA should take into account the Hazards, Risks and Controls that have been identified in this document.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The thick ropes should only be used by a competent and experienced Leader in Charge / Supervisor / Instructor. At the end of the activity all thick ropes must be correctly coiled and returned to the rope storage rack in the rope store. If any ropes are wet, they should not be returned to the rope store but left uncoiled by the side of the pole store. Users must not use any thick ropes that appear to be damaged. Any potentially damaged rope should be labelled and returned to the rope store. Users should report any damage and report any concerns they have to feedback.overstone@northamptonscouts.org.uk
<p>Hazard – Other Pioneering Equipment</p> <p>Risk – Injury or Death</p>	All Users	<p>Additional Pioneering Equipment includes items such as pulleys, anchor plates and metal stakes. These are all stored in the rope store.</p> <p>This equipment is checked and maintained at regular intervals.</p>	<p>The Leader in Charge / Supervisor / Instructor should write an appropriate RA with respect to running the Pioneering Activity. This RA should take into account the Hazards, Risks and Controls that have been identified in this document.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The additional Pioneering equipment should only be used by a competent and experienced Leader in Charge / Supervisor / Instructor. At the end of the activity all additional Pioneering equipment must be returned to the rope store. Users should report any damage and report any concerns they have to feedback.overstone@northamptonscouts.org.uk

<p>Hazard – Weather</p> <p>Risk – Injury and Illness caused by the weather and changes in it.</p>	<p>All Users</p>	<p>The OMT will action closure of the site or parts of and / or activities in the event of severe weather.</p> <p>Signage</p>	<p>The Leader in Charge / Supervisor / Instructor should write an appropriate RA with respect to running the Pioneering Activity. This RA should take into account the Hazards, Risks and Controls that have been identified in this document.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> User should be aware of the local weather conditions and changes to it and the impact it could have on the activity and users.
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<p>Date of Risk Assessment</p>	<p>08/03/2023</p>	<p>RA Written By</p>	<p>Colin Edge</p>	<p>Version No.</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>Review Date</p>	<p>08/03/2024</p>
<p>Date RA Reviewed</p>	<p>27/05/2024</p>	<p>Reviewed By</p>	<p>Malcolm Dyer</p>	<p>Version No.</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>Next Review Date</p>	<p>01/09/2025</p>
<p>Date RA Reviewed</p>	<p>11/03/2026</p>	<p>Reviewed By</p>	<p>Gary Jackson</p>	<p>Version No.</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>Next Review Date</p>	<p>01/03/2028</p>