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| **Department:** Porters | **Task or Activity Title:** Use of Pembroke College Punt |
| **Risk Assessor:** Karen Milne | **Date of Risk Assessment:**13th March 2023 | **To be reviewed on or before:** 12th March 2024 |
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| **Competence Required** e.g. Training, Qualifications | ‘Master of the Punt’, the driver of the punt, must be aged 18 years or over and not be under the influence of alcohol or drugs. |
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| **Details of process, activity or task being risk assessed** |
| **Describe the location of the task or activity**  | The Pembroke College Punt is moored at Darwin College and users will be able to punt along the River Cam as far as Grantchester Meadows in one direction and Jesus Lock in the other. |
| **Detail the task/activity being performed** | A punt is a flat-bottomed boat traditionally built out of wood propelled in the traditional fashion using a pole or Quant. The Master of the Punt or punter is the person who drives the punt, this is done from a platform at the stern. There is seating for the passengers in the middle of the boat.  |
| **What equipment, tools, materials and substances are being used** | Punt, quant (pole), oars, life preservers. |
| **Who will be involved in the task/activity (and others who might be affected)** | College members including staff, students, and fellows. |
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| **PPE Required** |
| **Protection Required** | **Tick** | **Protection against** | **Specification for PPE e.g. type, standard required** |
| **Life Protection** | **Y** | **Drowning** | **Life Preserver available for all users, must be worn by young persons and non-swimmers.** |
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| **Specific Hazards Identified with the task(s) to be undertaken:** |
| **Hazard Identified** | **Who might be harmed and How?** | **Measures to reduce the risk and/or impact of occurrence** | **Risk** **LxS=R** |
| **Deep Water** | **Punt users.**Any water comes with a risk of drowning. Falling in to the river. | Capsizing ishighly unlikely given theshape and robustness of the boat. Life preservers are available at the Porters’ Lodge for punt users to wear. Non-swimmers and young persons should always wear a life preserver when using the punt. The Master of the Punt must be 18 years or over, is responsible for the punt and the behaviour of the occupants, and must not be unduly under the influence of drugs or alcoholMaximum of 6 persons in the punt Users of the punt, other than the driver, must remain seated whilst moving.Ensure the punt is moored securely at both ends before boarding or alighting. | **2** | **5** | **10** |
| **Weirs and Sluice Gates** | **Punt users**There are two weirs and two sluice gates on the Cam. Where safety buoys are not present there is always a danger of being sucked down the falling water. This risk increases with increased flow following heavy rain. During periods of increased flow, a standing wave can form where the water flows out, in some cases this wave has the potential to trap and drown you. This risk is worst under the sluice gates. | Punt users should avoid these areas at all times. The volume of water is usually low enough that these water features pose little to no threat, however it is recommended that you steer clear at all times. | **2** | **5** | **10** |
| **Weil’s Disease** | **Punt users**Weil’s disease is the most severe form of leptospirosis; a bacterial infection carried by animals, found most commonly in rat and cattle urine. Infection occurs via open wounds being in contact with urine found on the river bank or in the water. It can also enter the body via the eyes and mouth.It does not usually result from swallowing water or rat bites.Symptoms can occur between 3 and 21 days following infection and are similar to those of the flu, including high fever, severe headache, chills, muscle aches, and vomiting, and may also include a rash. | Cover any open wounds such as cuts and scratches with waterproof plasters.Consider wearing protective clothing such as gloves.Wash thoroughly and as soon as possible if you have entered the water.Carefully clean any open wounds obtained during your time near the water.If symptoms occur seek medical treatment and explain to the practitioner that you have been in contact with open water. Early diagnosis and treatment can prevent more severe cases of infection. | **3** | **4** | **12** |
| **Collisions** | **Punt users** Trapped fingers, loss of balance, fall into water, potentially drown.Damage to punt | All punt users must abide by the rules of the river.Each punt on the river must keep to its right, the downstream boat giving way to the upstream boat.When a punt easies it must do so close to the bank to allow others to pass. Slower punts must give way to faster punts overtaking. | **4** | **3** | **12** |
| **Slips, trips and falls** | **Punt users**Water will collect in the punt, there will be splashes from the pole as it is pulled out of the water and from other river users.Water on the varnished wood of the punt will make a slippery surface where users could slip and fall.Items stored in the punt, e.g. bags and coats, as well as cushions, oars etc. can become trip hazards for those alighting and exiting the punt. | Suitable footwear to be worn by all punt users.Bail out water from the punt regularly.Store items sensibly under seats.Ensure the punt is left clean and tidy and without water in the base.No jumping into the punt, step carefully. | **3** | **3** | **9** |
| **Weather** | **Punt users**Users are exposed to the elements when driving or riding a punt.The sun can be strong during the middle of the day and can reflect from the water to the occupants of the punt. Sunburn, sunstroke, dehydration may occur.Wet weather can make the punt more slippery and increase the likelihood of slips and falls. Cold temperatures can cause discomfort and in extreme cases hypothermia. | Users should wear clothing appropriate for the expected weather. The breeze felt on the river can make one feel colder so an extra layer to add as required is always recommended.Sun screen should be worn on exposed skin when the sun is out.Suitable footwear should be worn to prevent slips, trips and falls. Blankets can be useful in keeping warm. | **3** | **3** |  |
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| **RISK CALCULATION** |
| **SEVERITY** | **Fatality, catastrophic loss or damage** | **5** | **10** | **15** | **20** | **25** |
| **Major injury, loss or damage** | **4** | **8** | **12** | **16** | **20** |
| **Reportable Injury, Moderate loss or damage** | **3** | **6** | **9** | **12** | **15** |
| **Minor injury, loss or damage** | **2** | **4** | **6** | **8** | **10** |
| **Negligible injury, loss or damage** | **1** | **2** | **3** | **4** | **5** |
| **X** | **Very Rare** | **Remotely Possible** | **Possible**  | **Regular** | **Frequent** |
|  | **LIKELIHOOD** |

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| **RISK RATING**  |
| **0-5****LOW** | Carry on using existing control measures and review periodically or in respect of a significant change. |
| **6-10** **MODERATE** | Carry on using existing control measures and consider additional controls to reduce the residual risk. |
| **11-15****HIGH** | Consider if task is essential and stop if possible. Seek professional advice. Implement new control measures as soon as is reasonably practicable, ensure risk of exposure is limited and regularly reviewed. |
| **16-25****UNACCEPTABLE** | **Stop!** Do not continue with activity or use of area until suitable and sufficient control measures have been put in place to reduce the risk considerably. |

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| **Action Plan**  |
| **Action to be completed** | **Responsible Person** | **Completion Date** | **Comments** |
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| **Assessed by:** | **Date** | **Updates/Revisions** | **Next Review due** |
| **Karen Milne** | **13/03/2023** | **Original RA** | **12/03/23** |
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