

STEEPLEJACK AND CHIMNEY WORKS

ACTIVITY RAMS — ADAPT TO SITE BEFORE USE

Tall structures · fixed and temporary access · the structure itself as the hazard

KD-RAMS-HA-003 Rev A0

Statutory basis: Work at Height Regulations 2005, including Schedule 5 for personal fall protection systems and reg 12 for inspection; HSWA 1974 s.2(2)(a) and MHSWR 1999 regs 3 and 5; LOLER 1998 regs 8 and 9 — equipment that lifts people is thoroughly examined at 6-monthly intervals and no platform is used without a current report; PUWER 1998; BS 8460:2025 for MEWPs; Manual Handling Operations Regulations 1992; COSHH 2002; CDM 2015 regs 13 and 15. Rescue is planned before anyone leaves the ground: a suspended casualty cannot wait for the fire service, and the rescue plan names who performs it and with what equipment.

1 DOCUMENT AND PROJECT IDENTIFICATION

RAMS REFERENCE	PROJECT / SITE REF	SITE NAME AND ADDRESS	DATE PREPARED	NEXT REVIEW DATE
CLIENT / PRINCIPAL CONTRACTOR	PLANNED START	DURATION	OPERATIVES	SUPERVISING THE WORK

2 SCOPE OF WORKS

Steeplejack works to chimneys, spires, masts and tall structures: access by ladders, fixed steelwork or temporary systems, inspection, pointing, banding, lightning conductor work and demolition preparation.

This document does not cover: structural assessment of the stack, explosive demolition, and access to any structure whose condition has not been surveyed.

SITE-SPECIFIC SCOPE, LOCATIONS AND LIMITATIONS

3 RISK ASSESSMENT — SCORE EACH RISK FOR THIS SITE, THEN ADD WHAT IS MISSING

The hazards and controls below are the starting point for this activity, written by a working main contractor. They are not complete for your site until a competent person has scored each risk, added the site-specific hazards, and struck out anything that does not apply. Rate risks High / Medium / Low before and after controls.

1. Failure of the suspension, anchorage or rigging

At risk: The operative, anyone below

Controls: Two independent systems at all times — a working line and a back-up line, each with its own anchorage. Every anchorage is proved against the design or certified test, never assumed from what is there. All equipment inspected before every use and formally at the stated interval under WAHR 2005 reg 12; anything with damage, unknown history or an out-of-date record is quarantined, not "kept for light work". Ropes are protected at every edge.

INITIAL (H/M/L)	RESIDUAL (H/M/L)	SITE-SPECIFIC ADDITIONAL CONTROLS, OR N/A	ACTION OWNER	BY WHEN

2. Objects dropped from height onto people below

At risk: The public, other trades

Controls: Exclusion zone below the full working area for the whole operation, barriered and manned where the public can reach it. Every tool lanyarded; nothing loose in pockets; materials raised and lowered in closed containers. The zone accounts for wind drift, not just the vertical drop, and it moves with the work.

INITIAL (H/M/L)	RESIDUAL (H/M/L)	SITE-SPECIFIC ADDITIONAL CONTROLS, OR N/A	ACTION OWNER	BY WHEN

3. Wind, rain and cold at height on an exposed elevation

At risk: Operatives

Controls: Wind speed is measured at working height and the limit is the lower of the equipment manufacturer's limit and the limit the method requires — not the ground reading and not a judgement from below. Work stops and the crew comes down at the limit. Wet and cold degrade grip and concentration long before they become dangerous in themselves, so exposure time is planned and rotated.

INITIAL (H/M/L)	RESIDUAL (H/M/L)	SITE-SPECIFIC ADDITIONAL CONTROLS, OR N/A	ACTION OWNER	BY WHEN

4. A suspended casualty and the absence of a rescue plan

At risk: The casualty, the whole crew

Controls: Rescue is planned, equipped and rehearsed BEFORE anyone leaves the ground, and the plan names the person who performs it and the equipment they use. Nobody works suspended alone. Suspension intolerance can develop within minutes in a motionless casualty, so the plan is to recover them, not to phone for someone else to. Rescue equipment is at the workplace, not in the van.

INITIAL (H/M/L)	RESIDUAL (H/M/L)	SITE-SPECIFIC ADDITIONAL CONTROLS, OR N/A	ACTION OWNER	BY WHEN

5. Work at height from steps, podiums, towers or MEWPs

At risk: Operatives, and anyone below

Controls: Select access by the Work at Height hierarchy — podium or tower before steps; MEWPs by trained (IPAF) operators only. Inspect access equipment before use, establish an exclusion below overhead work, and secure tools and materials against dropping.

INITIAL (H/M/L)	RESIDUAL (H/M/L)	SITE-SPECIFIC ADDITIONAL CONTROLS, OR N/A	ACTION OWNER	BY WHEN

6. Respirable silica and general dust from cutting and drilling

At risk: Operatives, others in the area

Controls: On-tool extraction (M-class) or wet suppression; RPE to the COSHH assessment (FFP3, face-fit tested) where extraction cannot adequately control exposure; sheet and segregate the work area in occupied buildings.

INITIAL (H/M/L)	RESIDUAL (H/M/L)	SITE-SPECIFIC ADDITIONAL CONTROLS, OR N/A	ACTION OWNER	BY WHEN

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continued

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7. Interface with occupants, other trades and the public

At risk: Occupants, other trades, the public

Controls: Segregate the work area — barriers, signage, sheeting; agree access routes and working hours with the occupier; never obstruct escape routes; deliveries and waste runs outside peak movement times where agreed.

INITIAL (H/M/L)	RESIDUAL (H/M/L)	SITE-SPECIFIC ADDITIONAL CONTROLS, OR N/A	ACTION OWNER	BY WHEN

8. The structure itself failing under the access loads

At risk: The crew, everyone below

Controls: A tall masonry structure that needs a steeplejack is usually a structure with a problem. Its condition is surveyed and the access loads are agreed against that survey before anything is attached to it — existing bands, ladders and anchorages are proved or replaced, never trusted on appearance. Loose material is removed under control from the top down, and the exclusion zone assumes material can be blown well outside the base radius.

INITIAL (H/M/L)	RESIDUAL (H/M/L)	SITE-SPECIFIC ADDITIONAL CONTROLS, OR N/A	ACTION OWNER	BY WHEN

Site-specific hazards not listed above — every site has at least one:

HAZARD	WHO IS AT RISK	CONTROLS	INITIAL HI...	RESIDUAL...	ACTION OWNER	BY WHEN

4 METHOD — SEQUENCE OF WORK

- 01 Obtain and read the structural survey; agree the access method and loads against it.
- 02 Establish the exclusion zone at the base for the full height plus wind drift, barriered and manned.
- 03 Prove or replace every existing anchorage, band and fixed ladder before use — nothing is trusted on appearance.
- 04 Rig two independent systems; confirm the rescue plan and equipment before ascent.
- 05 Work top down, lowering all material in closed containers; nothing is dropped.
- 06 Monitor wind at working height and descend at the limit.
- 07 Secure the structure and the exclusion zone at the end of every working period.

SITE-SPECIFIC AMENDMENTS TO THE SEQUENCE

5 PLANT, EQUIPMENT AND MATERIALS

- Ladder and band systems or temporary access
- Two independent rope systems
- Lowering equipment and containers
- Rescue kit
- Anemometer

INSPECTION / THOROUGH EXAMINATION REFS

COSHH ASSESSMENT REFS

6 PPE — THE LAST LINE OF CONTROL, NOT THE FIRST

- Head protection
- Safety footwear
- High visibility
- Gloves — task-rated
- Eye protection
- Hearing protection
- Full body harness with rescue attachment
- Helmet with chinstrap
- FFP3 for masonry dust

RPE TYPE, FACE-FIT STATUS, AND ANY OTHER PPE REQUIRED

7 PERMITS REQUIRED BEFORE THIS WORK STARTS

A permit authorises this work in that place, on that day. It extends the safe system of work in this document — it does not replace it (HSE HSG250). The site issues the permit; record its number before work starts.

KD-PTW-WH-006 — Work at Height Permit

For all steeplejack operations.

PERMIT NUMBER

PERMIT NUMBER

KD-PTW-GP-003 — General Permit to Work

Where the structure is in or adjacent to an operating site.

8 EMERGENCY ARRANGEMENTS — COMPLETE FOR THIS SITE

FIRST AIDER AND LOCATION	NEAREST A&E	ASSEMBLY POINT
HOW THE ALARM IS RAISED	EMERGENCY ACCESS FOR THIS WORK AREA	SPILL / ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSE

9 BRIEFING RECORD — EVERYONE WORKING UNDER THIS RAMS SIGNS BEFORE STARTING

By signing you confirm the contents of this RAMS have been explained to you, you understand the hazards and controls, and you will work to the sequence stated. Tell the supervisor if the work or the site does not match this document — work stops until it does.

NAME	COMPANY	SIGNATURE	DATE

10 PREPARED AND ACCEPTED

Prepared / adapted for this site by — I confirm I have adapted this document to the site, scored the risks, and that it describes how the work will actually be done.

PRINTED NAME	ROLE / COMPETENCE	COMPANY	SIGNATURE	DATE	TIME

Accepted for the site by — principal contractor or site manager review.

PRINTED NAME	ROLE	COMPANY	SIGNATURE	DATE	TIME

Review this RAMS if the work, the site or the law changes, and at least before each new phase of the works. Flatten the completed PDF before filing so the record cannot be silently edited.

R REVISION HISTORY

Every revision of this document, and every review that found nothing to change. The revision on the front of this sheet is the one you are holding — check kubitdocs.com for the current one before use.

Rev	Date	Class	What changed	Authorised by
D0	2026-08-11	first-issue	First issue.	— not yet approved —
A0	2026-08-27	review	Approved for issue by the author. Content unchanged from D0; the draft status strip is removed. No independent third-party review has been carried out.	Author — director, UK principal contractor, SMSTS. Not an independent review.

Class: first-issue · material (the law, a control, a field or the scope changed — past buyers are notified) · editorial (wording or layout only) · review (checked, nothing changed) · withdrawal. Revision prefix D = draft; not approved and not for sale; A = approved for issue by the person named, on the date shown.