

# Pfynwald Research Platform

## Safety Concept

### **Preamble**

The Pfynwald Research Platform consists of 8 plots, 1'000 m<sup>2</sup> each, with 18 measurement scaffolds to access the canopy for sampling and measurements. The measurement scaffolds have a maximum height of 12 m. Six from the 18 scaffolds are accompanied with an additional construction scaffold each, holding the water vapor infrastructure (see VPD scaffolds in Figure 1).

The work on the measurement scaffolds entails a specific risk potential. The safety concept clarifies the binding safety requirements and regulates the responsibilities of the users. This regulation is based on the "[Directive on Safety, Health and Environment \(SHE\) at WSL](#)".

### **Definitions**

- *User*: everybody who is performing measurements on the Pfynwald Research Platform according to the Terms of Use (ToU),
- *PCG*: The Pfynwald Core Group (PCG) supervises the Pfynwald Research Platform and issues the Terms of Use (ToU) for the Pfynwald Research Platform,
- *WSL*: WSL is the hosting institute of the Pfynwald Research Platform and represented by the WSL office responsible for safety, Andreas Zurlinden.

### **Safety regulations**

1. **Compliance with the following safety regulations is mandatory for all Users of the Pfynwald Research Platform:** These regulations apply to the use of the measurement scaffolds and the work within the Pfynwald Research Platform.
2. **Hazard identification / risk assessment:** The following specific hazards must be considered when working on top of the measurement scaffolds: falling when climbing onto the platforms, losing consciousness due to fear of heights, leaning over the scaffold for reaching distant twigs, access by unauthorized persons, technical defects, unfavorable weather conditions, injuries caused by falling objects. Other less obvious potential hazards cannot be ruled out. The above list does not claim to be exhaustive.
3. **Access to scaffolds:** The measurement scaffolds are accessed frequently by any User, which has been authorized by the PCG (see ToU). Access to the construction scaffolds, however, must be only permitted to the technicians of the Pfynwald Core Group (PCG) and is prohibited for anybody else.

To prevent unauthorized persons from accessing the measurement scaffolds, the scaffolds are secured with a 2 m high safety net around the base of the scaffold. In addition, the



entrance door to each measurement scaffold is locked. The keys to open the scaffold doors are managed by the PCG.

4. *Responsibilities:* WSL is responsible for compliance with the safety regulations concerning the measurement scaffolds. The WSL safety officer shall adapt the present regulations for use if necessary. The WSL office responsible for safety is Andreas Zurlinden, WSL. [andreas.zurlinden@wsl.ch](mailto:andreas.zurlinden@wsl.ch), Tel. 044 739 22 33.
5. *Maintenance:* WSL is responsible for the regular maintenance and inspection of the measurement scaffolds. The maintenance and frequent safety checks of the measurement scaffolds is regulated by contract between WSL and the construction company Lawil.
6. *Installations:* Any installations of instruments and equipment must be coordinated with the PCG (see Terms of Use). The installation, operation and removal of the instruments shall be at the expense of the responsible user/institution.

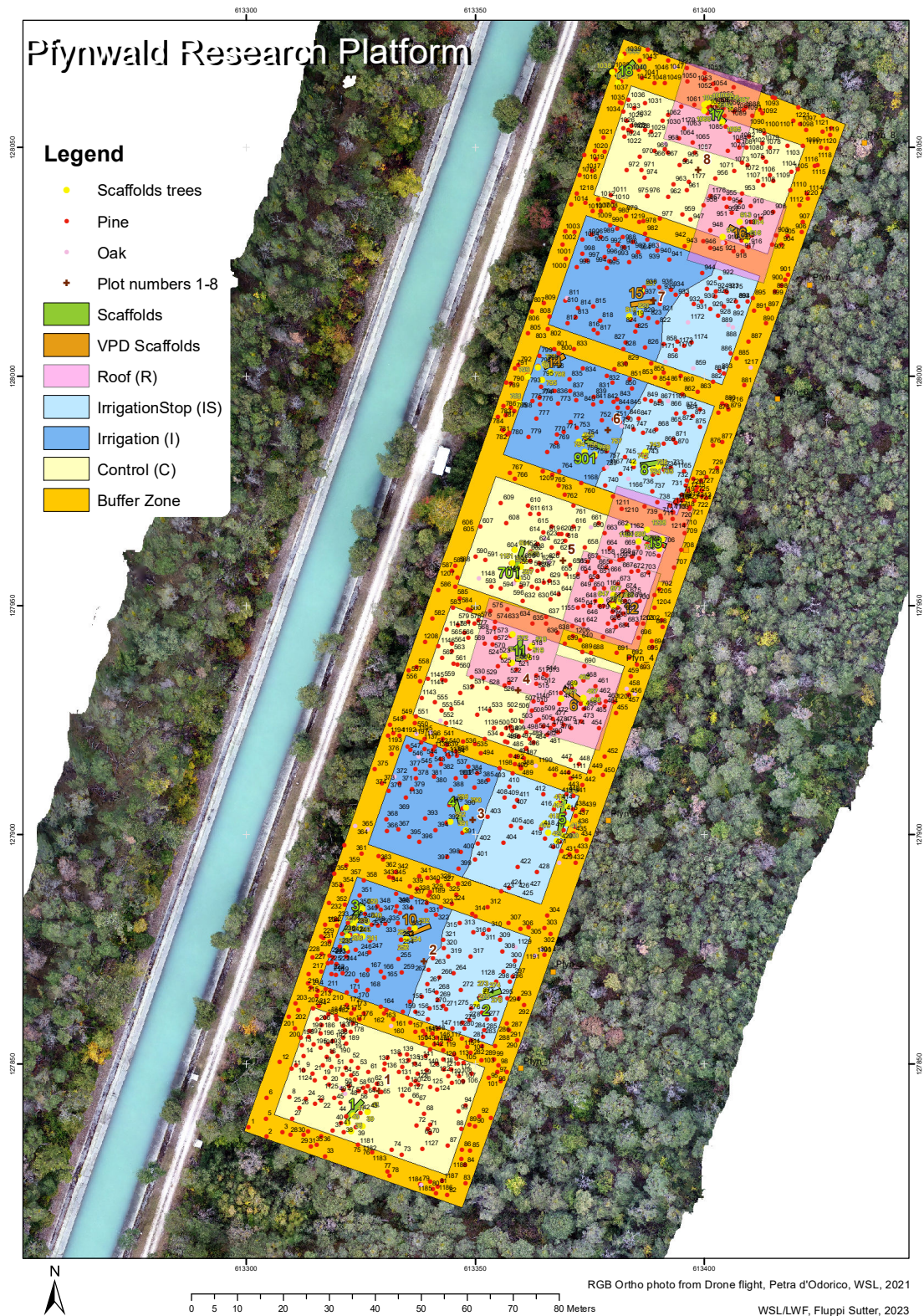
If users install or operate additional instruments or equipment on the measurement scaffolds, they themselves and their institution are responsible for compliance with the safety regulations and for the maintenance of their own instruments and equipment. Any installations from Users, must not pose a risk to any infrastructure of safety of the Users.

7. *Reporting:* All users are obliged to report any unsafe conditions immediately to the responsible WSL office.
8. *Unfavorable weather conditions:* **The measurement scaffolds must not be accessed in case of unfavorable weather conditions.** This applies in particular for approaching thunderstorms, wind speeds higher than 75 km/h, during nightfall, risk of lightning and icing.
9. *Emergency organization:* In case of an accident or emergency, help must be organized immediately! The information and organizations to be called are listed on the **WSL Emergency Sheet**, placed next to the entrance door inside the container (see Figure 2). A suitable first aid kit is provided.
10. *Entry into force:* The above safety regulations come into force on the signing of the Terms of Use by PCG and the User.

Birmensdorf 14.11.2023

Andreas Zurlinden, Safety Officer of the WSL

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'A. Zurlinden', written in a cursive style.



**Figure 1.** Map of the Pfywald Research Platform, indicating the positions of 18 measurement scaffolds (see legend; green and orange rectangles).

# Notfallmerkblatt Pfywald

**Aerzte Leuk: +41 27 473 13 06**

**Spital Visp: +41 27 604 33 33**

**Spital Sion: +41 27 603 40 00**

**Sanität: 144 \***

**Rega 1414 \* (+41 44 802 20 20)**

**Koordinaten Container: 46° 18' 11.24" N 7° 36' 42.46" O**

**Koordinaten Feld (Kanal abwärts): 46° 17' 53.79" N 7° 36' 35.24" O**

**Polizei: 117 \* (+41 27 472 71 35)**

**Feuerwehr: 118 \***

**Forstdienst Leuk (Reto Meichtry): +41 79 628 55 42**

**Kanalbetreiber Hydro Exploitation, Pikettdienst Leuk: +41 27 473 12 17**

**\* Die Kurznummern funktionieren nur mit Schweizer Sim Karten**

**Figure 2.** Emergency sheet for the Pfywald Research Platform.