

## ISLE OF WIGHT COUNCIL RISK ASSESSMENT RECORD

WORK AREA /WORK ACTIVITY COVERED BY ASSESSMENT **Dinosaur Isle - Walking route below Gore Cliff at St Catherine's to Rocken End**

PERSONNEL INVOLVED: Dinosaur Isle staff acting as guides

NON-EMPLOYEES AFFECTED: School children, teachers and non-teaching staff; Dinosaur Isle volunteers and work experience students.

ASSESSOR'S NAME Peter Pusey / Trevor Price

DATE OF ASSESSMENT: version 1 .. 7<sup>th</sup> January 2011

Item No	Hazards Identified	Risks Identified	Existing Precautions	Remedial Action	Priority for Remedial Action
1	Unstable low cliffs.	Falling off cliff. Being hit by falling rock.	Teachers must ensure their group refrains from climbing the cliffs.	Monitor throughout	
2	Large rocks.	Dropping rocks on toes. Tripping over rocks.	Prevent children and adults lifting heavy rocks. Tell children not to run and to watch where they walk.		
3	Strong sun.	Getting dehydrated and sun burnt.	Teachers must ensure their group has water and are wearing suitable clothing, caps and sun block if necessary.		
4	Slippery rocks.	Slipping.	Group must take care ascending / descending steep path to Farm.		
5	Slippery slopes.	Slipping.	The group must walk carefully and never run. Trips will not be run after prolonged heavy rain. Schools ascending / descending the steep path should do so in small groups at a time. An adult should lead the route and accompany those with less ability to cope with the terrain.		
6	Heavy rain.	Getting wet and cold.	Teachers must ensure the group has warm waterproof clothing. School trips will not run in very heavy rain.		
7	Strong wind.	Being blown around.	Trips will not run in strong winds.		

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Item No	Hazards identified	Risks Identified	Existing Precautions	Remedial Action	Priority for Remedial Action
8	Traffic on the road (no pavement).	Member of group being hit by traffic.	Group must walk in single file along the sea-ward side of the road from the bus stop, and be alert to traffic. An adult with a high visibility tabard or jacket should walk in front of, and at the back of, the group whilst it is on the roadway.		
9	Boggy areas.	Sinking, becoming stuck.	Group must follow their guide along the safest route.		
10	Fence.	Barbed wire on top of fence. Possible electrified fence.	Keep away from identified fences. Keep away from any marked electrified cattle wire.		
11	Nettles.	Being stung by nettles.	Children should keep away from obvious area and at times of nettle growth should cover legs and arms. Children should be warned before.		
12	Styles.	There are two wooden styles at each end of the route, and one at the Farm. Risk of falling.	Children should be supervised one-at-a-time over the styles.		

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**Site Name:** St Catherine's Point – Walking route between the Buddle Inn car-park and Knowles Farm via the Graben (fault-bounded valley) above Knowles Farm

**Location:** Southern tip of Isle of Wight. Grid Ref: SZ 5028 7573 (St. Catherine's Road) and SZ 4956 7545 (west of Knowles Farm).

**Amenities:** None. Nearest telephone is at Knowles Farm and public call box in front of the Buddle Inn, St. Catherine's Road . There is limited signal for mobile phones.

**Access:** Parties may be dropped off at the bus stop outside the Buddle Inn. Coaches are officially not allowed to wait in the Pub car-park, but there is usually space available on the roadside to leave coaches.

**Description:** This is a geomorphological walk through part of the structure of the western end of the complex region of mass movement that has affected the southern coastline of the Isle of Wight between Luccombe and Blackgang over several thousand years. The route passes through an ancient fault bounded graben with exposures of Upper Greensand marine sands and cherts on either side. The towering back cliffs of Gore Cliff can be seen in the distance. The site of the July 1928 rock fall can be visited; at this time the old coastal road was permanently cut and the end has now been turned into a small viewpoint car-park. The western part of the road descends or ascends via a steep clay path to the footpath. Alongside this route can be seen an old mud slide and there is a good overall view of the run-out aprons that front the complex.

The route can be run in either direction, with access to the western end reached via the tarmac footpath/private road to Knowles Farm.

**Geological Interest:** Upper Cretaceous marine strata. From the Carstone to the Grey Chalk.

**Geomorphological Interest:** Complex faulted area of mass movement caused by rising sea, active erosion of the toe of the complex, dipping of strata towards the sea, porous rocks above clays and perched aquifers. Large east-west fault-bounded graben, with exposed tilted rocks in the side walls. Rotated fault blocks, rock falls, slides and fault scars. Spectacular view of Upper Greensand cliff in the distance at the back of the complex.

**Nature interest:** The walk passes through areas in which many unusual plants grow, and the appearance of pioneer species on active sites can be seen. Buzzards, small finches, magpies and rabbits are common.

**CAUTION: THIS ROUTE IS ONLY SUITABLE FOR ABLE-BODIED WALKERS, AND STRICT SUPERVISION WILL BE REQUIRED.**  
**The walk will not run in inclement weather or after heavy rain.**