



## ISLE OF WIGHT COUNCIL RISK ASSESSMENT RECORD

WORK AREA /WORK ACTIVITY COVERED BY ASSESSMENT **Dinosaur Isle - Field trip to St Catherine's, 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 3 .. 11<sup>th</sup> December 2008

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	Flotsam and jetsam.	Poisoning, explosion, laceration.	Children must alert an adult if they see any suspicious objects or containers.		
3	Large rocks.	Dropping rocks on toes. Tripping over rocks.	Prevent children lifting heavy rocks. Tell them not to run and to watch where they walk.		
4	Rock splinters.	Being injured by splinters of rock.	Dinosaur Isle staff will use hammers only when necessary. The children must stand back while this takes place.		
5	Livestock (in field occasionally).	Accidental collisions with animals. Children afraid or overexcited.	Keep group together and walk calmly around animals.		
6	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.		
7	Slippery rocks.	Slipping.	Group must avoid seaweed-covered rocks exposed at low water.		
8	Slippery slopes.	Slipping.	The group must walk carefully and never run. Trips will not be run after prolonged heavy rain.		

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Item No	Hazards identified	Risks Identified	Existing Precautions	Remedial Action	Priority for Remedial Action
9	Heavy rain.	Getting wet and cold.	Teachers must ensure the group has warm waterproof clothing. School trips will not run in very heavy rain.		
10	Strong wind.	Being blown around.	Trips will not run in strong winds.		
11	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.		
12	Boggy areas.	Sinking, becoming stuck.	Group must follow their guide along the safest route.		
13	Sea.	Getting washed away.	Group must avoid the sea. Teachers should headcount at the start and end of trip.		
14	Fence.	Barbed wire on top of National Trust fence.	Keep away from fence on landward side of area.		

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**Site Name:** St Catherine's Point – Rocken End

**Location:** Southern tip of Isle of Wight. Grid Ref: SZ 492756 – 496754

**Amenities:** None. Nearest telephone is at Knowles Farm. 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. The beach is reached via a steep single track road leading towards St Catherine's lighthouse, which connects with a pebbly track to Knowles Farm. A stile in the farmyard gives access to a public footpath leading through hilly farmland. A scramble down very low clay cliffs is the final part of the journey to the beach site.

**Description:** The site is a boulder strewn beach fringed to the north by cliffs of clay, sandstone and chalk. The beach is accessible at all tidal states.

**Geological Interest:** Upper Cretaceous marine strata. The sequence is rich in marine fossils, including brachiopods, bivalves and ammonites. These can be collected loose on the shingle between the boulders or can be removed from boulders by your Dinosaur Isle guide.