

## 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 4 .. 6<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	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 and adults lifting heavy rocks. Tell children 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. Although once accessible at all tidal states, the past two years have seen a lowering of the beach platform which means that the beach should not be used at high tide, or during strong onshore winds.

**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.

**Geomorphological Interest:** The site lies below a former landslide - and the effects of that slide can be seen today. In July 1928 a large rockfall occurred in the Upper Greensand of Gore Cliff and the debris cut the old road from Niton to Blackgang permanently. Later that year, in the September, a further slide caused much of the debris to move to the beach. Continuing gradual creep is opening up cracks, and during the winter the odd boulder is added to the slide from above. A more recent slide within the old debris flow can be seen en-route and compared to a glacier within a cut valley. There are a number of fault scars higher up, with no vegetation, showing there is still active movement in this area during the winter months.