

RISK ASSESSMENT RECORD HS2.28



WORK AREA/ WORK ACTIVITY COVERED BY ASSESSMENT: **Dinosaur Isle – School field trip to St. Catherine’s beach, Rocken End.** RA NO: DRA4
 PEOPLE AFFECTED: EMPLOYEES: Y CONTRACTORS: N VISITORS: Y MEMBERS: OF PUBLIC: Y OTHER: School staff and children, museum volunteers and work experience students.

ASSESSOR’S NAME: Trevor Price & Alex Peaker

DESIGNATION: Community Learning Officer & ACLO

ASSESSMENT DATE: 29th April 2019, version 8

REVIEW DATE: April 2021

ITEM NO	HAZARD IDENTIFIED	POTENTIAL OUTCOME FROM HAZARD	EXISTING CONTROL MEASURES	FURTHER CONTROL MEASURES REQUIRED	ALLOCATED TO?	TARGET DATE	COMPLETED
1	Cliffs.	Falling from cliff. Being hit by falling rock. Getting stuck in mud at the base of the cliff.	Teachers must ensure their group keep well away (at least 5 metres) from cliffs. School visits only use the gravel beach by the low clay cliffs. Children will be briefed about this and other safety matters before the trip.				
2	Tides.	Getting washed away, or drowning.	Only visit at a suitable time. Instruct group to avoid the sea. Teachers should headcount at the start and end of the trip.				
3	Flotsam and jetsam.	Poisoning, explosion, laceration. Individuals may collect flotsam and leave it in piles on the beach before removal or burning.	Children must alert an adult if they see any suspicious objects or containers. Avoid any collections of rubbish.				

4	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.				
5	Rock splinters.	Being injured by splinters of rock.	There may be occasions when Dinosaur Isle staff will break open a nodule of rock with a hammer. This will only be done when necessary to explain a property of the rock. The children must stand back when this happens and will be given due warning.				
6	Dog faeces / cow 'pats'.	Transfer of pathogens to children.	Warn group to watch out for it. Wash hands after beach visit if necessary. Washing facilities are not available here so wipes should be brought.				
7	Strong sun.	Getting dehydrated and sun-burnt.	Teachers must ensure their group has water and are wearing suitable clothing, with caps and sun block if necessary.				
8	Heavy rain.	Getting wet and cold.	Teachers must ensure the group has warm waterproof clothing. School trips will not run in heavy rain.				

9	Traffic.	Member of the group being hit by traffic. No pavement here.	Teachers should ensure the group walk along St. Catherine's Road in single file on the seaward side, and take care on the single-track private road leading to Knowles Farm. High visibility tabards should be worn by leaders.				
10	Slips, trips and falls on the beach, or when crossing the field to the beach.	Slipping on wet clay or grass, or on large blocks of rock. Slips on seaweed on the beach platform.	<p>The beach is a public area and falls can only be avoided by supervision and care. Children should be told not to run, and to walk slowly (especially on the beach). This is ALWAYS to be a priority message in the safety briefing before walking down to the beach, and repeated again before crossing the stile onto the beach.</p> <p>Groups will be marshalled in an established area and children told not to go out onto the rocky beach.</p> <p>Trips will not run after prolonged heavy rain.</p>				

11	Stones.	Children being injured from thrown stones.	Children are briefed about not throwing stones prior to the walk, and are to be supervised by teachers on the beach.				
12	Broken glass / fishing hooks and line.	Children could be cut picking up objects.	These items appear only at certain times of the year, and are rare. Children will be briefed prior to the walk, and will be supervised. Any large piece of glass or fishing hook / line should be left where it is and reported to a member of staff who will remove it and dispose of it back at the museum.				
13	Boggy areas.	Getting feet stuck in the mud, or slipping into muddy water.	Groups must follow their guide in single file along the safest route. When walking to the site children should keep behind an adult.				
14	Sea.	Getting washed away.	Trips are not run at, or near, high tide or in stormy conditions. Teachers should headcount prior to leaving the beach. Children should be told to keep to the gravel area and teachers should post marshals at each end of the section of beach to be used.				

15	Stiles and gates.	There is a wooden stile near the beach which need some care traversing. It is possible to slip on this if the wood is wet.	<p>The stile has been fitted with an upright pole handle to aid traversing. While the beach is not suitable for wheelchairs, and wheelchairs cannot negotiate or pass the stile any child with walking difficulties should be aided over the stile and on the beach.</p> <p>Please note: the stile that was once sited at Knowles Farm has now been replaced with a wooden 'kissing' gate.</p>				
16	Fence	The wooden fencing near the beach can sometimes have livestock barbed wire on its upper surface which may result in puncture wounds.	Teachers should monitor children using the final stile to the beach (where the fencing connects to the stile). Children should keep away from the wooden fencing.				
17	Livestock (rare occasions in the field)	Sometimes the field en-route has young inquisitive cattle in it. There could be accidental collisions or children could become frightened or over-excited.	Keep group together and walk calmly around animals.				
18	Electric livestock fence.	Electric shock.	Any electric fencing is visibly marked and can be heard clicking when switched on. Children are to avoid touching it. The fencing normally lies outside but adjacent to the area used by schools.				

19	Strong wind.	Due to the south-western aspect of the bay the winds can be strong and children can be blown about, or subjected to wind-blown sand in the eyes.	Trips will not run in very high winds.				
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REMEMBER! *THE EXISTING CONTROL MEASURES ARE WHAT YOU ARE DOING NOW. FURTHER CONTROL MEASURES ARE WHAT YOU NEED TO DO TO ACHIEVE AN ACCEPTABLE LEVEL OF SAFETY. RISK ASSESSMENT IS A CONTINUOUS PROCESS, ANY SIGNIFICANT CHANGE WILL REQUIRE RE-ASSESSMENT

Site information:

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 (private), a public telephone box outside Buddle Inn, St. Catherine's Road (01983 730596) and the nearest toilets are in Niton Village.

Communication: There is limited signal for mobile phones. Over the years the reception has improved but generally there is no signal on the beach. Signal reception may be possible on the tarmac section of the road to Knowles Farm but this will be dependent on provider and weather on the day. For larger schools that combine their site visit with half of the group on the beach and half in the valley above the use of small hand-held radios has proven effective to maintain contact between teachers.

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 for coaches to wait. 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 gate in the farmyard gives access to a 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 few 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.

The rocks and pebbles on the beach comprise a mixture from the oldest brown cliffs behind (Monks Bay Sandstone Formation, formerly called the Carstone) to rocks from the very top of the cliffs (Grey Chalk Formation). The youngest natural material consists of small blocks of Tufa and veneers of dripstone (limestone deposited in and around springs, and in caves, during the last few thousand years where water has drained down through the landslide complex).

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.

Ground movement: Since 2013 the single track road to Knowles Farm has been rippled and cracked by gradual ground movement below. Repairs to the tarmac and fencing continue to show how the recent wet winters are affecting the stability of the western end of this active landslide zone. From the beach it was once possible to see a large boulder of Upper Greensand projecting from a fault scarp. During the winter of 2014/2015 this boulder finally fell and now it lies in the bottom of the valley below.