Fieldwork Safety Risk Assessment Sheet

DATE:

LOCATION: Charmouth West Beach

MAP SHEET/GRID REF: SY193 360930

Location Description:
Beach Sand Cobbles Large boulders

Activity Description:
Fossil collecting

PERSONS AT RISK: Wardens, volunteers, members of public and school groups (Please see separate method statement for schools)

Source	**Risk/Hazard**	**L**	**S**	**RF**	**Current Measures (See 'fossil walks procedure' for more info and details)**	**Action in occurrences**	**Additional Measures Required and target date?**	**Action taken date**
Minor cliff fall	Bone or muscle Injury	2	4	8	Always aim to maintain a safe distance from the cliff face (20ft minimum but greater if required). Advise on dangers and if assisted have one Warden/volunteer as look out. Events are scheduled around low tide to allow safer distance to cliffs and sea where possible.	Call 999, First Aid	Increase the staff/volunteer ratio to the public and active warning statement at start of event and during if necessary.	
Major cliff fall	Suffocation or crushing	1	4/5	4/5	Always aim to maintain a safe distance from the cliff face (20ft minimum but greater if required). Advise on dangers and if assisted have one Warden/volunteer as look out. Events are scheduled around low tide to allow safer distance to cliffs and sea where possible.	Alert Emergency Services	Increase the staff/volunteer ratio to the public and active warning statement at start of event and during if necessary.	
Landslip/Mudflow	Entrapment	2	3	6	Always maintain a safe distance from the cliff where possible. Warning statement to avoid walking on areas of landslips and mudflows. Active warning if necessary.	Call 999, First Aid, Treat for Shock.	None	

					Events are planned around tides to ensure attendees are not restricted to the base of the cliff to access areas of the beach.			
Weather	Hypothermia, hyperthermia	2	3	6	Advise participants, volunteers and staff sufficient fluids during hot weather. Check the forecast before event and advise participants prior to event if extreme weather. Always dress appropriately for conditions.	First Aid/Treat for shock. Call 999 if required	None	Heat wave of 2022 we emailed participants prior to event to advise them of conditions
Weather	Sun burn, dehydration	2	2	4	Advise participants, volunteers and staff sufficient fluids during hot weather. Advise customers to check the forecast before attending a walk and bring sufficient exposure wear/sun cream/fluids. Always dress appropriately for conditions.	First Aid, Call 999, Treat for shock.	None	
Weather	Unsafe/Dangerous Conditions	1	3	3	Assess conditions (windspeed, storm surge) on the day prior to event and contact participants via phone or email if the conditions are deemed too rough. Events are delayed or cancelled in the event of thunder and lightning.	Delay or cancel the event as required. Reschedule if possible/as required.	None	See separate sheet detailing walk parameters and email template for cancelling walk due to gusting windspeed. Details are in appendix 'Fossil walk procedures'
Sea	Drowning/Near Drowning	1	4/5	4/5	Events are scheduled with reference to the tides to ensure tides and surge do not interfere with access. Maintain respectful distance from the sea where possible, especially if conditions are unsettled. This will become easier as the tide goes out.	Call 999, First Aid, Treat for shock in event of near miss.	None	
Slippery Rocks/Surfaces	Head injury, musculoskeletal injury	3	3	9	Suitable footwear is recommended on our website and at time of booking. Walking boots (preferably with ankle support) are advised. Warning statement to participants before and during event if necessary.	First Aid, Call 999	None	Spring of 2023 large areas of the foreshore where exposed and dangerous to walk on. We took a

					Avoid areas of wet clay, shale and green algae during walk where possible. Walk at a slow pace to ensure attendees do not feel the need to run or walk faster to catch up. Participants urged to be careful if carrying small children due to increased risk to self of falling and potential injury to child.			route closer to the receding water line to avoid these areas to access our fossil hunting area.
Tripping accessing the beach	Head injury, musculoskeletal injury	4	4	16	Suitable footwear is recommended on our website and at time of booking. Walking boots (preferably with ankle support) are advised. Warning statement to participants before and during event. Volunteers are tasked with assisting participants onto beach. Wardens are to check beach access prior to walks. Participants urged to be careful if carrying small children due to increased risk to self of falling and potential injury to child.	First Aid	None	Storms in Jan/Feb 2026 stripped the shingle away by the rock armour making access more challenging.
Accidental dropping/moving of rocks	Hand/Foot Injury	3	2	6	Make sure attendees are at a safe distance when hammering takes place by a Warden or volunteer. Recommend wearing suitable footwear/handwear. Walking boots (preferably with ankle support and steel toe caps) and gloves to protect hands. No open toed footwear.	First Aid	None	
Hammer	Hand Injury	3	2	6	Make sure attendees are at a safe distance when hammering takes place by a Warden or volunteer. Be ready to stop hammering or moving rocks if participants get too close. Advise them to keep distance. Recommend sufficient PPE (gloves). Geological hammers, Machinist hammers, bricklayers' hammers are typically of a suitable	First Aid	None	

					construction for working with stone. Advise participants, if using their own hammers.			
Hammer	Eye Injury	3	2	6	Make sure attendees are at a safe distance when hammering takes place by a Warden or volunteer. Be ready to stop hammering or moving rocks if participants get too close. Advise them to keep distance. Recommend sufficient PPE (goggles/glasses). Geological hammers, Machinist hammers, bricklayers' hammers are typically of a suitable construction for working with stone. Advise participants, if using their own hammers.	First Aid	None	
Sharp Object	Puncture injury or scrape	1	3	3	Discourage unnecessary movement of rocks. Warn about the possibility of encountering sharp rock fragments, scrap metal and other sharp objects washed up in the beach system. Warning statement- Mudslides associated with the historic rubbish dumps can be a source of sharp objects.	First Aid, Coastguard	None	
Pollutants	Exposure (poisoning, dermatitis, irritation)	1	3	3	Discourage unnecessary movement of rocks. Be alert to possibility of encountering asbestos or chemical pollutants. Avoid handling unknown substances. Warning statement- Mudslides associated with the historic rubbish dumps can be a source of pollutants.	First Aid, Alert Charmouth Parish Council/ National Trust if necessary.	None	
WW2 Beach Ordnance	Unexploded munitions	1	2/4	2/4	If unexploded munitions are found, mark the area and retreat to a safe distance. Warn other beach users to avoid the area. If inadvertently picked up, carefully put down on the ground, mark the area and retreat to safe distance.	Call 999 and ask for coastguards.	In stormy conditions warning statement and extra vigilance from Wardens and volunteers.	After the winter storms of 2014 several objects were washed on to the beach.

					Do not attempt to disassemble or hit with hammers/rocks.			
Existing Medical Condition	Difficulty breathing due to respiratory illness, musculoskeletal injuries	2	3	6	Where possible, be aware of any existing medical conditions that may affect extraction abilities. Recommend the affected party to observe the event rather than take active part and a Warden attend to them. Advise asthma sufferers to bring inhaler if required.	First Aid, Call 999	None	
Wildlife Interactions	Insect Bite/Sting	1	2	2	N/A	If anaphylaxis is suspected, contact emergency services/use EpiPen if available.	Warning statement to participants of wildlife strandings, including dolphins, jelly fish and Portuguese man of war.	
Bacteria/Virus	Infection	2	4	8	Wardens and volunteers encouraged to carry and use hand sanitiser.			
Risks to and from members of the public	Injury from hammering into the cliff face, entrapment in mudslide.	2	2	4	If Warden and volunteer numbers allow, then approach the individuals and explain risks. Be ready to stop hammering or moving rocks if members of the public get too close. Advise them to keep distance.	First Aid	None	

Safety Equipment
Assessed by:
Checked by:

Warden first aid kits Mobile phone Radio	Waterproof clothing
Beall 29-5-26	

Review risk assessment quarterly Reviewed by:	Date:

Fieldwork Safety Risk Assessment Sheet

DATE:

LOCATION: Stonebarrow Beach

MAP SHEET/GRID REF: SY193 384926

Location Description:
Beach Sand Cobbles Large boulders

Activity Description:
Fossil collecting

PERSONS AT RISK: Wardens, volunteers, members of public and school groups (Please see separate method statement for schools)

Source	Risk/Hazard	L	S	RF	Current Measures (See 'fossil walks procedure' for more info and details)	Action in occurrences	Additional Measures Required and target date?	Action taken date
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Major cliff fall	Suffocation or crushing	1	4/5	4/5	Always aim to maintain a safe distance from the cliff face (20ft minimum but greater if required). Advise on dangers and if assisted have one Warden/volunteer as look out. Events are scheduled around low tide to allow safer distance to cliffs and sea where possible.	Alert Emergency Services	Increase the staff/volunteer ratio to the public and active warning statement at start of event and during if necessary.	
Landslip/Mudflow	Entrapment	2	3	6	Always maintain a safe distance from the cliff where possible. Warning statement to avoid walking on areas of landslips and mudflows. Active warning if necessary.	Call 999, First Aid, Treat for Shock.	None	

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Slippery Rocks/Surfaces	Head injury, musculoskeletal injury	3	3	9	Suitable footwear is recommended on our website and at time of booking. Walking boots (preferably with ankle support) are advised. Warning statement to participants before and during event if necessary.	First Aid, Call 999	None	Spring of 2023 large areas of the foreshore where exposed and dangerous to walk on. We took a

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Checked by:

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RCM 29-5-26	

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