

RISK ASSESSMENT RECORD HS2.28



WORK AREA/ WORK ACTIVITY COVERED BY ASSESSMENT: **Dinosaur Isle – Walking route below Gore Cliff.** RA NO: DRA7

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 5

REVIEW DATE: April 2021

ITEM NO	HAZARD IDENTIFIED	POTENTIAL OUTCOME FROM HAZARD	EXISTING CONTROL MEASURES	FURTHER CONTROL MEASURES REQUIRED	ALLOCATED TO?	TARGET DATE	COMPLETED
	If this walk is done in conjunction with a visit to the beach at Rocken End then a separate Risk Assessment is available for that activity.						
1	Ancient rock-lined half-graben.	Rare possibility of a falling rock.	Teachers must ensure their group keep well away (at least 5 metres) from any cliffs. Children will be briefed about this and other safety matters before the trip.				

2	Nettles and brambles.	The final path can become narrower during the summer due to the encroachment of sidegrowth. Nettles and brambles may cause stings.	Children should keep away from any obvious areas, and cover arms and legs at times of nettle growth. Children should be warned before, and any child who is known to have a reaction should bring appropriate treatment.				
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	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.				
5	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.				
6	Heavy rain.	Getting wet and cold.	Teachers must ensure the group has warm waterproof clothing. School trips will not run in heavy rain.				

7	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.				
8	Slips, trips and falls in the wooded area, or when using the steep path to the beach.	Slipping on wet clay or grass, or on large blocks of rock.	<p>The area is popular with local people and dog walkers, but can become slippery after rainfall. Children should be told not to run, and to walk slowly. This is ALWAYS to be a priority message in the safety briefing when at the start point.</p> <p>Groups will be marshalled in an established area and told to walk in single file, and help each other if necessary.</p> <p>Trips will not run after prolonged heavy rain.</p> <p>This is a summer, not a winter, walk</p> <p>Adequate footwear with good tread is essential.</p> <p>If going down the path children may be asked to</p>				

			<p>go down backwards, and to walk in a number of small groups.</p> <p>If the path appears too slippery on arrival then turn back.</p>				
9	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.				
10	Broken glass or items left by walkers.	Children could be cut picking up objects.	These items appear only at certain times of the year, and are very rare. Children will be briefed prior to the walk, and will be supervised. Any object should be left where it is and reported to a member of staff.				
11	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, the children should keep behind an adult.				
12	Stiles and gates.	There is a wooden stile near the beach which needs some care traversing. It is possible to slip on this if the wood is wet.	The stile is low and can be crossed with care. This walk is not suitable for anyone with a significant walking impairment due to the steep nature of paths in places.				

			Please note: the stile that was once sited near the road has now been replaced with a wooden 'kissing' gate.				
13	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.				
14	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.				
15	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.				

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 – 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 (private), a public telephone box outside Buddle Inn, St. Catherine's Road (01983 730596), and the nearest public 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 or on the track from the valley down to the beach. Reception is possible in the valley in most places. 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 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 Monk's Bay Sandstone Formation (oldest) to the Grey Chalk (youngest).

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 ground movement sites can sometimes be seen. Buzzards, small finches, magpies and rabbits are common.

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.

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.