

Lyme Regis Museum Fossil Walk Risk Assessment

Activity / Environment: **Fossil Walks**

Key person responsible for School Fossil Walks: **Chris Andrew, Museum Learning Officer.**

Hazards	RISK	CONSEQUENCE	Who is affected and how	Procedures in place to minimise risk
1. Uneven ground on beach	High	Low	Walk participants could trip, fall or slip on uneven and slippery surfaces on the beach.	Fossil walk guides have expert local knowledge and will advise walkers. People made aware at time of booking that they must wear suitable footwear and come dressed for the weather conditions on the day. At the start of the walk the guide will include a safety briefing telling participants what to expect and how to stay safe.
2. Bad Weather Conditions	Medium	Low	Conditions could be cold and visibility poor at times in heavy rain. Walkers may not be aware that they need adequate footwear and clothing for the walk.	Guides have expert knowledge of local weather conditions and will not take walks out if the weather conditions are dangerous. Walks do go ahead in rain. If weather conditions change adversely during a walk, guides will offer participants the opportunity to return early. If the guide considers a person to be inadequately dressed for the weather conditions they will offer a refund and ask the person to withdraw from the walk.
3. Incoming Tide	Low	High	Walk participants could get cut off by the incoming tide.	Walks are timed to take place on a falling tide. Walkers are advised in the safety briefing at the start of the walk of the risks of being caught by the incoming tide.
4. Walkers unfit to take part	Low	Low	Walkers, including elderly and very young children may find the uneven surface on the beach and	People are advised at time of booking of the length of the walk and advised of the conditions on the beach

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the length of the walk is challenging or difficult	Low	Low	School booking must have a ratio of adults to children deemed appropriate by the school.	If the guide considers a person to be unfit for the walk they will offer a refund and ask them to withdraw from the walk.
5. Landslip or rock fall before the walk.	Low	Low	The area could become unsafe if there is a landslip or rock fall prior to a walk.	Guides will check the area before taking a walk out and the walk will be cancelled if there are any concerns about the safety of the area. Alternative routes will be selected if appropriate.
6. Landslip or Rock fall during the walk.	Low	High	Material from the cliff could fall on to the beach during a walk.	The guides do not take walkers near the cliff face.
7. Cuts from sharp metal and glass.	Low	Medium	Walkers may find metal and glass on the beach.	The guides will advise walkers at the start of the walk about the risks of picking up glass and metal fragments. Guides carry simple first aid kits.
8. Injury from hammers or chisels.	Low	Medium	Hammers and Chisels are sometimes used to extract fossils.	Walkers are advised at the time of booking not to bring hammers or chisels. The Guides will include in their safety briefing information about safe use of hammers and chisels. Guides will wear safety goggles. The guides will use tools when appropriate and demonstrate how to hammer safely.
9. Fall from Seawall	Low	High	Participants may be tempted to jump off, or climb on the edge of seawall and could fall.	Guides will advise all participants not to climb or go too close to the edge of the seawall. Schools will be advised of the risk and to ensure that children are adequately supervised.

Risk Assessment Amended by David Tucker, Museum Director April 2018