

LRM Beach Fossil & Rock Pooling Walk Risk Assessment

HAZARD	LIKELIHOOD	SEVERITY	RISK	Who is affected and how	Mitigating Actions and Procedures
<p>Uneven ground on beach, slippery mud, weed covered rocks, slippery wave cut platforms, rocks and boulders that move underfoot.</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>HIGH</p>	<p>Walk participants could trip, fall or slip on uneven and slippery surfaces on the beach.</p> <p>The risk is increased if participants land on sharp or dangerous beach debris (see separate hazard below)</p>	<p>Guides will have experience leading groups and knowledge of the local beach and conditions.</p> <p>Guides are First Aid Trained.</p> <p>In the walk description we will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information about the terrain, beach is uneven, slippery, wet, muddy and can be covered with seaweed in places. • Due to the terrain, it is not suitable for the use of buggies, baby carriers, wheelchairs or walking aids. • Terrain and distance covered can make it a physically arduous activity. • Terrain makes the walk unsuitable for young children (under 6), people with some health conditions, those with limited mobility. <p>On booking walkers will be advised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The length of time of the walk and approx. distance covered.

					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To wear suitable footwear such as boots or trainers. • Come dressed for the weather conditions on the day. • Terrain not suitable for the use of buggies, baby carriers, wheelchairs or other walking aids. • No toilet or refreshment facilities on the beach. • That terrain makes the walk unsuitable for young children (under 6), people with some health conditions, those with limited mobility. <p>At start of the walk Guides will advise walkers how to stay safe and this briefing will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explanation that the beach is uneven, slippery, wet, muddy and can be covered with seaweed in places. • Walkers should take particular care when traversing the beach, ledges and rocky areas. • Check walkers are wearing suitable footwear and be dressed for the weather conditions on the day. • Advise walkers not to run, lift or carry other walkers.
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					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Terrain not suitable for the use of buggies, baby carriers, wheelchairs or other walking aids. • No toilet or refreshment facilities on the beach. <p>Guides will actively monitor the conditions and terrain during the walk and continue to advise walkers on the best route to take and how to keep safe.</p>
Bad Weather	3	3	MEDIUM	<p>Conditions could be cold and visibility poor at times in heavy rain. Walk participants may not be aware that they need adequate footwear and clothing for the walk. Conditions may also be very hot and sunny – adequate clothing to prevent sunburn and heat exhaustion may need to be worn along with sufficient water may need to be taken by participants.</p> <p>Lightning storms are specific cases that may have possible fatal consequences. Heavy rain can increase the risk of rock falls and mudflows. Strong winds can also change sea states and tide heights and can increase the risk of rock falls.</p>	<p>Guides will assess the local weather conditions before the walk and will not take walks out if the weather conditions are dangerous. They will continue to monitor the conditions during the walk and if they consider the conditions unsafe the walk is immediately cancelled and all participants will return to the safety of the museum.</p> <p>Walks do go ahead in rain. If weather conditions change adversely during a walk, guides will offer participants the opportunity to return early.</p> <p>If the guide considers a person to be inadequately dressed for the weather conditions they will ask the person to withdraw from the walk.</p>

					If Lightning develops before or occurs during a walk then the walk is immediately cancelled and all participants will return to the safety of the museum.
Incoming Tide	1	5	LOW	Walk participants could get cut off by the incoming tide.	<p>Walks are timed to take place on a falling tide.</p> <p>Walk participants are advised to follow the advice of the guide at the start of the walk to avoid being caught by the incoming tide.</p> <p>The walk ends on the beach, and guides will formally tell all participants that the walks is finished.</p> <p>Guides will tell participants about the incoming tide and remind to leave the beach at the end of the walk.</p>
Walk participants unfit to take part	2	4	LOW	Walk participants, including elderly, those with specific medical conditions or health issues and very young children may find the uneven surface on the beach and the length of the walk challenging or difficult	<p>People are advised at time of booking of the length of the walk and advised of the conditions on the beach before the start of the walk.</p> <p>Children must have a supervising adult to attend the walk.</p> <p>Guides will advise all participants to follow their instructions.</p>

					<p>If participants are unruly or do not follow instructions from the guide they will be asked to withdraw from the walk.</p> <p>If the guide considers a person to be unfit for the walk they will ask them to withdraw from the walk</p>
Landslip or rock fall before the walk	2	2	LOW	The area could become unsafe if there is a landslip or rock fall prior to a walk	<p>Guides will visually assess the area before taking a walk out onto the beach and the guides will actively monitor the situation during the walk.</p> <p>Alternative routes will be selected if appropriate. The walk will be cancelled if there are any concerns about the safety of the area.</p> <p>Guides assess the weather conditions before the walk as these may increase the chance of a rock fall or landslip and will judge whether the walk can proceed.</p>
Landslip or Rock fall during the walk.	2	5	MEDIUM	Material from the cliff could fall on to the beach during a walk.	<p>The guides do not take walk participants near the cliff face.</p> <p>Participants are warned not to go near the landslips and mudslips when booking and in the initial safety briefing.</p>

					<p>Guides observe the participants and remind them if they stray near the mudflows and landslips.</p> <p>Guides assess the weather conditions during the walk as these may increase the chance of a rock fall or landslide and will judge whether the walk can proceed or requires to be ended immediately with participants guided back to the safety of the museum..</p>
Existing Landslips & Mudflows	4	3	MEDIUM	Participants could become stuck in existing mudflows and landslips	<p>The guides do not take walk participants near mudflows and landslips. Participants are warned not to go near the landslips and mudflows when booking and in the initial safety briefing.</p> <p>Guides observe the participants and remind them if they stray near the mudflows and landslips.</p> <p>The walk will travel across the mud that is on the beach and the guides actively assess the risk and inform participants as to the hazards from slipping and also getting stuck.</p>
Injury from beach debris from the old rubbish dump e.g. sharp rusty	3	5	MEDIUM	Walk participants may pick up beach debris or may fall on debris if they slip and trip	The guides will advise walk participants at the start of the walk about the risks of picking up beach debris such as glass and metal fragments.

metal and broken sharp glass etc					<p>Guides will emphasise the need for care when moving around as participants that fall may land on sharp and dangerous beach debris.</p> <p>Guides will remind participants of the dangers if there are particularly dangerous areas with lots of fresh and sharp debris.</p> <p>Guides carry simple first aid kits and have first aid training.</p>
Injury from using hammers or chisels or from rock fragments created whilst hammering and chiselling.	3	5	Medium	<p>Walk participants are not permitted to use hammers or chisels or other tools on the walk.</p> <p>Guides will use tools only when appropriate.</p>	<p>Hammers and Chisels are sometimes used to extract fossils by the guides and they will only be used after making sure the participants are at a safe distance away.</p> <p>Walk participants are advised at the time of booking not to use hammers or chisels during the walk.</p> <p>Other beach users may be using them and walk participants are informed to keep away.</p> <p>The Guides will include in their safety briefing information about safe use of hammers and chisels.</p>

					<p>The Guides will include a demonstration at the end of the walk showing how to hammer safely and effectively.</p> <p>Guides will wear safety goggles and gloves. The guides will use tools only when appropriate and demonstrate how to hammer safely.</p> <p>Other beach users may be using tools. Participants are warned to stay away from them as they may not be aware of people near them that could be injured by their activities.</p>
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Key person responsible for Fossil & Rock Pooling Walks: Paul Davis

Location of Walk: Foreshore below Church Cliffs, Spittles & Black Ven East of Lyme Regis, and Monmouth Beach.

LIKELIHOOD – Graded from 1 (low) to 5 (high)

SEVERITY – Graded from 1 (minor) to 5 (serious)

RISK – Likelihood X Severity = Risk (1-8 Low, 9-17 Medium, 18-25 High)

RISK ASSESSMENT AUTHOR: Bridget Houseago

RISK ASSESSMENT LAST Revised: 23/04/2026 RISK ASSESSMENT NEXT REVIEW DATE: 31/01/2027