

Please note that this risk assessment applies to the activity at the date of writing and under the prevailing weather conditions at this time. Please discuss any possible changes to this assessment with Leeson staff before undertaking this activity.

<b>Activity: Studland to Old Harry Rocks and also from Old Harry to Swanage via Ballard Down</b>			
<b>Risk Assessment Completed By: Michael Gould and Louise Harding</b>		<b>Date: January 2020 Review: January 2021</b>	
<b>See General Off-Site Risk Assessment</b>			
<b>1</b>	<b>Cliff edges</b>	<b>Unfenced throughout route</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure that pupils are properly briefed to be aware of the unfenced cliff edges along the entire route</li> <li>• Ensure that a member of staff is at the front of the group at all times.</li> <li>• Ensure that the group leader is familiar with the route and has up to date knowledge of the route and conditions</li> <li>• Take weather, especially ground conditions and wind strength and direction into account</li> </ul>
<b>2</b>	<b>Old Harry Viewpoint</b>	Narrow headland with unfenced cliff edges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use throwline or other brightly coloured rope to mark out area where pupils can walk and sit to view / sketch Old Harry.</li> <li>• Brief pupils beforehand.</li> </ul>
<b>3</b>	<b>Horse riders and mountain bikes</b>	Horse riders and cyclists use this route regularly, especially at weekends	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Group leader to be at front at all times and to be aware of hazard</li> </ul>
<b>4</b>	<b>Adders</b>	Adders can be found alongside path and at headland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Brief pupils not to approach or pick up any snakes seen</li> </ul>
<b>5</b>	<b>Steep slopes / slippery paths / deep mud</b>	Group leader not having up to date information about potential hazards and their location. Asthmatics on steep hills. Paths can be steep, slippery and loose or very muddy, especially descents to Swanage from top of Ballard Down	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure that a member of staff is at the front of the group at all times.</li> <li>• Ensure that the group leader is familiar with the route and has up to date knowledge of the location of any potential hazards.</li> <li>• Carry and check inhalers beforehand</li> <li>• Staff must brief and supervise pupils as they descend steep hills.</li> <li>• Clear briefing given to pupils on behaviour and care needed. Members of staff positioned at front, within and at rear of group.</li> </ul>
There are a number of different paths that run along the coast between Old Harry and the top of Ballard Down, plus there are a number of "false paths" from the top of Ballard Down down towards Swanage Bay. It is essential that the leader has done a recent check of the route. The condition of the path can vary within a very short period of time. It is remote from immediate assistance.			
<b>Emergency</b>		<p>See General Off-Site Risk Assessment Emergency Procedure</p> <p>Mobile Phone signals are good for the majority of the route, except the descent to Swanage where the signal can be intermittent.</p> <p>There are no escape routes except from the top of Ballard Down where there is a path back down to Studland Village which is much gentler and less slippery than the paths on the Swanage side of the hill. A path continuing westwards along the top of the hill and descends onto the Ulwell to Studland road past the Obelisk.</p> <p>Vehicle access to either end of the route is good.</p>	
		Police/Ambulance/Coastguard – 999 or 112	Leeson House – 01929 422126