

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.

Activity: Purbeck Coastal Path - see also risk assessment for Durlston Country Park/Dancing Ledge		
Risk Assessment Completed By: Michael Gould and Louise Harding		Date: January 2020 Review: January 2021
See General Off-Site Risk Assessment		
1	Adders	Encountering Adders. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that pupils are properly briefed to avoid these hazards.
2	Getting lost / following path that leads to cliff top.	Group leader unfamiliar with route or not having up to date information about potential hazards and their location. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that a member of staff is at the front of the group at all times. • Ensure that the group leader is familiar with the route and has up to date knowledge of the location of any potential hazards.
3	Horses/Cows	Horses and cows can be encountered in some parts of the coastal path - they can bite rucksacks and kick excitedly. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Group leader must have up to date knowledge and/or knowledge of optional routes to avoid horses and cows if necessary.
4	Steep slopes / slippery paths / deep mud	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. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that a member of staff is at the front of the group at all times. • Ensure that the group leader is familiar with the route and has up to date knowledge of the location of any potential hazards. • Carry and check inhalers beforehand • Staff must brief and supervise pupils as they descend steep hills. • Clear briefing given to pupils on behaviour and care needed. Members of staff positioned at front, within and at rear of group.
5	Cliff top / cliff bottom areas, & landslides	Landslides / rock falls can occur along the coast and in the old quarry workings at Dancing Ledge and Winspit, especially after periods of heavy rain. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that a member of staff is at the front of the group at all times. • Ensure that the group leader is familiar with the route and has up to date knowledge of the location of any potential hazards. • Group leader must have up to date knowledge and/or knowledge of optional routes to avoid landslides if necessary. Cliff top edges and the base of cliffs must not be approached under ANY circumstances.
<p>There are a number of different paths that run along the coast between Durlston Head and Winspit. We DO NOT recommend any group use the coastal path west of Winspit, as along this section there is no fence between the path and the cliff top. In addition we advise that any leader familiarise themselves with the whole area shortly before leading a group along the coast. The condition of the path can vary within a very short period of time, and diversions can be in place when maintenance work is being done. It is remote from immediate assistance.</p>		
Emergency		<p>See General Off-Site Risk Assessment Emergency Procedure</p> <p>Please note that the signal for mobile phones can be very restricted on the coastal path. Mobile phones will usually work once the plateau or parts of the path is reached. Ensure the leader is familiar with the quickest escape routes from the coastal path. It is important that all group leaders are aware of, and prepared for, the remote nature of sections of the Purbeck Coast Path.</p> <p>Police/Ambulance/Coastguard – 999 or 112</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Leeson House 01929 422126</p>