

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: Swanage Town Studies and Main beach plus beach north of main beach towards Ballard Down cliffs			
Risk Assessment Completed By: Michael Gould and Louise Harding			Date: January 2020 Review: January 2021
See General Off-Site Risk Assessment			
1	Road crossings walking to / from Swanage	Crossing Village road at end of Leeson Driveway and crossing main road at junction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff to wear reflective waistcoats and for there to be at least 2 members of staff with each group working in Swanage. Cross village road at end of drive. Cross main road at junction, then stay on pavement to beach at end of Victoria Avenue.
2	Narrow pavements	There are many narrow pavements and Swanage can be very busy.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff to wear reflective waistcoats if appropriate and for there to be at least 2 members of staff with each group working in Swanage.
3	Pedestrians	Groups of students can block pavements. Residents can resent being interviewed. There are many narrow pavements and Swanage can be very busy.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff to brief and manage the group / plan activities to minimise the disturbance to local residents at all times
4	Traffic	There are many narrow pavements and Swanage can be very busy.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff to brief students on sticking to pavements and if necessary staff to wear reflective jackets when crossing roads. Students to walk in single file if appropriate
5	Abduction / members of the public / exposure on beach by members of the public.	Swanage beach can be extremely busy during the summer months and it is difficult to keep close watch on a group of pupils. REGULAR COUNTING OF PUPILS AND ENSURING THAT A MEMBER OF STAFF IS AT THE FRONT AND REAR OF THE GROUP AT ALL TIMES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff to supervise on the beach, define area for children to play, keep all children within sight at all times, have a whistle to call children back, phone police if staff notice anything suspicious. Staff to check area of beach beforehand, especially when playing in sand with hands, keep continual watch on all children whilst on beach.
6	Disturbance to local residents with questionnaires / interviews	Groups of students can block pavements. Residents can resent being interviewed.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff to brief and manage the group / plan activities to minimise the disturbance to local residents at all times
7	Sharp objects / dog mess on beach	Glass, rubbish and dog mess on the beach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff to check area of beach beforehand, especially when playing in sand with hands, keep continual watch on all children whilst on beach.

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Siphonophore – In the summer of 2017 a number of Portugese Man O'War were washed up onto the beaches. These sting even when washed up. Do not allow students near.
8	Cliffs north of main beach	Loose cliff material, rock falls, landslides	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff to be familiar with any recent activity on the cliffs and avoid as appropriate: RECCE FIRST! Brief pupils to keep away from base of cliffs Do not allow pupils to attempt to climb on landslide debris Check tides and ensure staff know of the access point at Sheps Hollow Recent workings under the Pines Hotel must not be climbed on.
9	Public toilets - location and opening times of	There are very limited public toilets in Swanage.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are public toilets on the seafront alongside the tourist information office, at the Railway Station and by the Heritage Centre. For the ones by the Heritage Centre, a fee is payable.
10	Beach / Sea / Tides	freak waves, rising tide.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Close supervision of pupils on beach – do separate risk assessment for any planned paddling – only allow if qualified lifeguard is present Staff must carry a throwline and know how to use it Check tide tables and plan accordingly, visit the beach, esp north of Sheps hollow, on a falling tide whenever possible
11	Groynes	Large drops to one side of groynes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supervise students climbing over groynes Try to find easiest route across – usually at tope of groyne closest to seawall or cliffs (if safe)
12	Sea Defence Work (ceased in October 2016)	Substantial vehicle movement and also large areas of stone ramps on main beach / shore road and also beneath The Pines Hotel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brief students to avoid traffic on beach Brief pupils to avoid climbing on the stone access ramps Check tides and plan ahead as access along the beach may not be possible during mid to high tides
Emergency		Swanage Police Station number is 01929 422004. Lost Children Point next to the Tourist Information Centre - open in summer only. Doctors surgery is next to the railway station. Leeson House 01929 422126	Emergency Services – 999 or 112

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Activity: Supplementary Risk Assessment for Swanage Beach north of Ocean Bay following landslides and rock falls

Risk Assessment Completed By: Michael Gould and Matt Smith

Date: January 2019

Review: January 2020

See General Off-Site Risk Assessment

We have engaged in discussions with Swanage Coastguards, Purbeck District Council and Dorset County Council

The message from the above is consistent

The beach is not closed but there are areas where access would be ill-advised and an extremely careful and considered approach should be made to making a dynamic risk assessment whilst using the beach.

Only use the beach at low tide or at times close to low tide – to ensure that enough beach is available so that a group can give sufficient space between them and the base of the cliffs.

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The aerial photograph and annotations below details the risk assessment



Lots of loose material at the tops of the cliffs – keep clear of the base of cliffs – be aware of areas of freshly fallen angular material and also mudflows

Footpath to Sheps Hollow has been badly eroded and present a trip and skip hazard in places. Ensure that all students and staff are fully briefed on taking care and helping each other down the stairs.

Big rockfall from the expanse of clean sandstone mid way between groynes – keep clear of the cliff base along the whole of this section

MAJOR mudflow at this point – there is no safe way of avoiding this so approach carefully and ensure low tide to be able to maneuver over groyne.

Lots of landslide debris above the multistorey beach huts and also a crack developing in the “wall” above the stonebuilt huts at the end of the promenade. DO NOT approach / try to climb over the groyne immediately north of the where the footpath down Burlington Chine (by the Grand Hotel) meets the promenade – NO access to the beach beyond this point.

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