

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: Lulworth Cove, Stair Hole, Fossil Forest, Mupe Bay, Durdle Door and paths linking these sites

Risk Assessment Completed By: Michael Gould and Louise Harding

Date: January 2019
Review: January 2020

See General Off-Site Risk Assessment

1	Remote location	Illness / accident in a remote location, especially Mupe Bay area and St Oswalds Bay	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leader must be familiar with nature of the area under the prevailing conditions and choose working areas and activities appropriate to the conditions and group
2	Traffic in car parks	Traffic in car park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brief group members about the traffic in Car Parks. Adult to accompany group / individuals across car park to toilets and to Heritage Centre At Durdle Door the party is to use the "woodland" walk to get from the coach drop off area to the coast path, not the access road.
3	Exposure	Inadequate clothing and footwear for conditions There is NO SHELTER in the area, especially at the view point overlooking Stair Hole, the path from Lulworth Cove to the Fossil Forest and Mupe Bay and the path over Bindon Hill to Durdle Door	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure the group is adequately equipped and that a weather forecast is obtained. Carry KISU when appropriate Be prepared to change plans if area chosen is exposed to the wind / weather.
4	Cliff edges / bases	Cliff edges with long drop, loose rock in cliffs. The Fossil Forest is especially dangerous with unprotected drops and edges plus very loose cliffs above the ledge Slopes below viewpoint at Stair Hole	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brief all group members to be aware of cliff edges and to keep away from tops and bases of cliffs. Some of the cliff edges are unfenced, especially at the Fossil Forest and the path from here towards Mupe Bay Leader must be in front at all times and all other adult helpers must remain vigilant AT ALL TIMES The Lulworth Estate strongly discourage groups from climbing down into Stair Hole due to the erosion of the slopes, the landslides and mud and the danger from the loose cliffs above. Due to a landslide at Man O'War beach in spring 2018 there is no access down to the beach as the steps have been washed away.
5	Army ranges	Areas beyond the cove between the Fossil Forest and Mupe Bay are within active army firing ranges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Check army range opening times and notices. Ensure that all group members keep within safe area AT ALL TIMES. Brief group to avoid approaching and/or touching any metal objects found in the area
6	Sea	Sea – Lulworth Cove and Mupe Bay.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Check tide tables and weather forecast beforehand.

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carry throwline and have it to hand at all times. • Spend 5 minutes watching wave conditions before allowing group to work close to the sea to check on wave conditions. • Note the very steep beach at Durdle Door – strong undertow in certain wave conditions • Siphonophore – In the summer of 2017/18 a number of Portugese Man O'War were washed up onto the beaches. These sting even when washed up. Do not allow students near.
7	Mupe Rocks	Sea and slippery rocks exposed at low tide	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check area beforehand, brief pupils on the need to take care when moving about over these rocks.
8	Paths	<p>Paths from Stair Hole to the top viewpoint and from there down to the Cove, from Cove up to Fossil Forest and along path from Fossil Forest to Mupe Bay.</p> <p>Paths towards Durdle Door and steps down onto Durdle Door Beach</p> <p>Path up / down Bindon Hill</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Very narrow steps on eastern side of Cove and down to Mupe Bay, with the path from the Cove to the Fossil Forest through the bushes often being very muddy and slippery. • As above for steps down to Durdle Door Beach • Brief pupils carefully and supervise closely • Steep paths and loose gravel on the ascent of Bindon Hill • The steps at Man O' War are currently in a state of disrepair. Advice from Lulworth rangers is to not use.
9	Adders	Adders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have been found on the paths and beaches in this area – brief pupils not to approach or pick up any snakes encountered
Emergency		<p>See General Off-Site Risk Assessment Emergency Procedure</p> <p>Limited mobile phone reception in the area. Heritage Centre and Café in Cove are nearest points of contact.</p> <p>Path between Mupe Bay and Lulworth Cove that goes inland has good reception – e.g. at Grid Ref SY837799</p> <p>Police/Ambulance/Coastguard – 999 or 112 Leeson House – 01929 422126</p>	

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