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Risk assessment for fossil hunting walks at Charmouth Beach.

The following Safety Risk Assessment is based on a risk rating system as below.

Risk ratings applied to identified hazards

SEVERITY

LIKELIHOOD

	No Injury 1	Minor 2	Serious 3	Major 4	Fatal 5
V. Unlikely 1	1	2	3	4	5
Unlikely 2	2	4	6	8	10
Possible 3	3	6	9	12	15
Probable 4	4	8	12	16	20
Certain 5	5	10	15	20	25

Likelihood (L) X Severity (S) =Risk Factor (RF)

A score of over 8 requires control measures to be adopted.

Example of a risk rating

Hazard: Hand injury, Risk Rating is calculated as $L 3 \times S 2 = RF 6$
No control measures required.

Hazard: Eye Injury = $L 3 \times S 4 = RF12$
Greater than 8 Control required.

Controls, Warning to stand back when someone is hammering and wear safety goggles when you are hammering.

In the table 999 is used to indicate that the Emergency Services should be telephoned.

Christopher Pamplin, trading as fossilwalks.com is employed by the client as a guide only and will include verbal warnings of the hazards listed below in the talk. Teachers are reminded that whilst on a visit to Charmouth beach they are wholly responsible for the children in their charge and should watch to ensure children keep a safe working distance from the cliffs at all times during the walk. Chris will be busy helping children find fossils and not always able to watch the cliff section of the beach. The following safety advice will be given verbally by Chris Pamplin.

Never go under the cliffs- the best fossils are on the beach where the sea has been

Be careful what you pick up- Rusty metal, glass and occasional bullets are but a few things on the beach

No throwing stones

Watch out for slippery boulders with green seaweed on them

If hammering wear eye protection- never hold a rock for someone else to hit.

The following Fieldwork Safety Risk Assessment Sheet can be printed out and used on the day by teachers, and has columns to record any additional action taken and the date taken. It is a subjective list of hazards based on many years of leading walks at Charmouth during which time only minor injury has occurred on but a few occasions. If the guidelines are followed fossil hunting is a safe activity.

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ACTIVITY: Guided fossil collecting and talk.

Compiled by Chris Pamplin.

Fieldwork Safety Risk Assessment Sheet

Date:

Location: Charmouth Beach, Dorset

LOCATION DESCRIPTION: Beach, sand, cobbles and boulders

MAP Sheet/GRID REF: SY193 360930

Area Object	Potential Hazard	L	S	RF	Current Control	Action in event of	Additional Control	Action Taken Date:
Weather	Cold/Heat/Burn	3	3	9	Suitable clothing, sun screen and water	1 st aid		
Cliff	Rock fall injury	1	4	4	Warning statement	999/1 st aid		
Mudflow	Stuck in mud	1	3	3	Warning statement	999/1 st aid		
Sea	Drowning/near drowning	2	5	10	Warning statement	999/1 st aid		
Slippery Substrate	Fall/slip injury	2	2	4	Warning statement	1 st aid		
Hammer	Hand injury	2	2	4	Warning statement	1 st aid		
Hammer	Eye Injury	3	4	12	Warning statement	1 st aid/999		
Rocks	Hand Injury	2	2	4	Warning statement	1 st aid/999		
Pollution	Chemical exposure/injury form sharp object	1	3	3	Warning statement	1 st aid/999		
Wildlife	Sting/bite	2	2	4	None	1 st aid/999		
Bacteria	infection	1	4	4	Wash hands after walk	Doctor		
Medical Condition	Asthma etc.	1	3	3	Clients to advise	1 st aid/999		

Signed by group leader

Date

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