

## **Risk Assessment for Coastal Fieldwork: All Locations.**

The weather and tides play a crucial role in the success of any beach based activities. Hooke Court endeavours to provide activities regardless of the location that are safe and present a minimal risk to children, visiting staff/adults and our own tutors. Should the tides or weather conditions present an increased risk to the group, then alternative activities will be arranged by the FST. These activities may or may not take place on the beach.

Hazard/Risk	Who could be effected by the hazard.	Likelihood of being effected.	Worst consequences of being effected.	Total for risk assessed.	Controls to reduce risk.	Residual Risk Level
Fall from promenade or harbour edge.	VSA FST VC	1	75	75	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>VSA/FST to ensure that children are supervised leaving the coach and given safety talk before any activity begins.</li> <li>VSA/FST set clear boundaries in each area of activity and before groups move between different locations.</li> <li>VSA/FST to remain vigilant at all times to prevent anyone 'just having a look' and wandering off.</li> <li>Once safety talk is complete the whole group make their way to the beach.</li> </ul>	LOW
Cliff collapse, rock fall or impact from rock or stone onto person/s on the beach.	VSA FST VC	1	75	75	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>FST to include warning in safety talk telling everyone to keep away from the base of the cliff, particularly during the winter or in periods of wet weather.</li> <li>VSA/FST to heed all warning signs in the beach area.</li> <li>FST/VSA to ensure that stones are not thrown at any time by anyone on the beach or cliff top.</li> </ul>	LOW
Drowning in the sea.	VSA FST VC	1	75	75	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>VSA/FST to include warning in safety talk no one should go near the sea at anytime, even to paddle, or work with their back to the sea.</li> <li>FST to ensure that they have a throw line and have sufficient practice in it's use prior to the activity day.</li> <li>FST/VSA to ensure that they take the prevailing sea and weather conditions into account prior to any activities taking place. The FST should be prepared to alter the activity should any of the conditions change, or be considered unsuitable.</li> <li>FST/VSA to enforce clear boundaries in which the children must work under supervision of the VSA at all times.</li> </ul>	LOW
Injury caused by flotsome or jetsome.	VSA FST VC	1	75	75	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>VSA/FST to include warning in safety talk, no one should pick anything up on the beach unless they are certain they know what it is. If they are unsure then the FST must be informed and they will investigate further, and act accordingly.</li> <li>VSA/FST to conduct an initial survey of the beach prior to activity checking for anything which may cause injury.</li> </ul>	LOW

					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Any activities that include the collection of materials should include a safety introduction by the FST detailing the sorts of things they should find.</li> </ul>	
Slip, trip or fall on the beach, coastal path or car park.	VSA FST, VC	1	75	75	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>VSA/FST to include warning in safety talk, certain areas will be slippery due to weed, or water or both, extreme care should be taken at all times. Running should be avoided at all times.</li> <li>VSA/FST should consider areas of highest risk and avoid them wherever possible. The rock and boulder jetties and protection for the sea wall should not be climbed under any circumstances.</li> <li>VSA/FST should ensure that the whole group has suitable footwear for the activity.</li> <li>VSA/FST should ensure that VC and themselves do not over burden themselves equipment or luggage impairing free movement.<sup>i</sup></li> </ul>	LOW
Collision with car or other vehicle on route to fieldwork site or beach.	FST VSA VC	1	75	75	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>FST to warn of dangers involved in walking along near the road.(only 5m stretch of route is not on a pavement).</li> <li>FST to ensure that a VSA or FST is positioned at the back and front of the group.</li> <li>FST/VSA should wear high visibility jackets.</li> <li>FST to ensure group is all on the same side of the road.</li> <li>FST/VSA to ensure that VC walk in single file along the road and pavement where ever possible.</li> </ul>	LOW

**Risk Assessment for Lulworth Cove and Durdle Door.**

Hazard/Risk	Who could be affected by the hazard.	Likelihood of being affected.	Worst consequences of being affected.	Total for risk assessed.	Controls to reduce risk.	Residual Risk Level
Fall from promenade, coastal path, cliff or harbour edge.	VSA FST VC	1	75	75	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>VSA/FST to ensure that children are supervised leaving the coach and given safety talk before any activity begins.</li> <li>VSA/FST set clear boundaries in each area of activity and before groups move between different locations.</li> <li>VSA/FST to remain vigilant at all times to prevent anyone 'just having a look' and wandering off.</li> <li>Once safety talk is complete the whole group make their way to the beach or other location.</li> <li>In the event of large numbers of other children and/or school parties then the FST should actively plan to ensure meeting points, and other pinch points do not force group members nearer any cliff edges or other high risk features.</li> <li>FST, VSA should adhere to instructions and permissive routes that have been marked by the relevant authority as a safe route or alternative if maintenance or reinstatement of the path is underway.</li> </ul>	LOW

					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>FST and VSA should ensure that all group members keep to marked routes and paths at both Lulworth Cove/Stair Hole and Durdle Door. No group member should venture off the safe marked route for any purpose.</li> <li>FST and VSA should make a judgement on whether or not the group accesses the beach at Durdle Door down the maintained path to the beach. Careful consideration should be given to the group, prevailing/recent weather conditions and the state/condition of the path. Should there be any reservation then access should not be attempted.</li> </ul>	
Cliff collapse, rock fall or impact from rock or stone onto person/s on the beach.	VSA FST VC	1	75	75	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>FST to include warning in safety talk telling everyone to keep away from the top edge and base of the cliff, particularly during the winter or in periods of wet weather.</li> <li>VSA/FST to heed all warning signs in the cliff/beach area.</li> <li>FST/VSA to ensure that stones are not thrown at any time by anyone on the beach or cliff top.</li> </ul>	LOW
Drowning in the sea.	VSA FST VC	1	75	75	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>VSA/FST to include warning in safety talk no one should go near the sea at anytime, even to paddle, or work with their back to the sea.</li> <li>FST to ensure that they have a throw line and have sufficient practice in it's use prior to the activity day.</li> <li>FST/VSA to ensure that they take the prevailing sea and weather conditions into account prior to any activities taking place. The FST should be prepared to alter the activity should any of the conditions change, or be considered unsuitable.</li> <li>FST/VSA to enforce clear boundaries in which the children must work under supervision of the VSA at all times.</li> <li>Should the group access the beach at Durdle Door special mention should be made of the exclusion zone along the waters edge, VSA should position themselves to avoid 'accidental' access to the sea by any group member.</li> </ul>	LOW
Lost child or other group member on site or moving between different locations.	VSA FST VC	1	75	75	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Regular stops should be made and VSA given the opportunity to conduct head counts to ensure all group members are present.</li> <li>In the safety briefing FST should advise all group members to stay where they are should they find themselves separated from the group for any reason, the group will return by the same route to find them.</li> <li>FST should pro-actively plan ahead, taking into account other school parties and the general public, when and where they stop to ensure the head count can be accurate and as easy as possible to conduct.</li> </ul>	LOW
Injury caused by flotsome or jetsome.	VSA FST VC	1	75	75	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>VSA/FST to include warning in safety talk, no one should pick anything up on the beach unless they are certain they know what it is. If they are unsure then the FST must be informed and they will investigate further, and act accordingly.</li> </ul>	LOW

					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>VSA/FST to conduct an initial survey of the beach prior to activity checking for anything which may cause injury.</li> <li>Any activities that include the collection of materials should include a safety introduction by the FST detailing the sorts of things they should find.</li> </ul>	
Slip, trip or fall on the beach, coastal path or car park.	VSA FST, VC	1	75	75	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>VSA/FST to include warning in safety talk, certain areas will be slippery due to mud, weed, or water, extreme care should be taken at all times. Running should be avoided at all times.</li> <li>VSA/FST should consider areas of highest risk, stopping if the conditions worsen and take an alternative route, avoiding them wherever possible.</li> <li>VSA/FST should ensure that the whole group has suitable footwear for the activity.</li> <li>VSA/FST should ensure that VC and themselves do not over burden themselves equipment or luggage impairing free movement.<sup>ii</sup></li> <li>FST should try to avoid accessing the busy areas when large numbers of other people/children are present. Should this not be possible then VSA/FST should conduct frequent head counts once the busy areas have been passed.</li> </ul>	LOW
Collision with car or other vehicle on route to fieldwork site or beach.	FST VSA VC	1	75	75	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>FST to warn of dangers involved in walking along/near any road.</li> <li>FST to ensure that a VSA or FST is positioned at the back and front of the group.</li> <li>FST/VSA should wear high visibility jackets.</li> <li>FST to ensure group is all on the same side of the road.</li> <li>FST/VSA to ensure that VC walk in single file along the road and pavement where ever possible.</li> </ul>	LOW

### **Risk Assessment for Seashore Activities and Surveying at Kimmeridge Bay, Dorset.**

Hazard/Risk	Who could be affected by hazard.	Likelihood of being affected	Worst consequence of being affected	Risk Level	How hazard/risk is mitigated	Residual risk level
Fall over, or down steep cliff, promenade or harbour edge.	VSA FST VC	1	75	75	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>VSA/FST to ensure that children are supervised leaving the coach and given safety talk before any activity begins.</li> <li>VSA/FST set clear boundaries in each area of activity and before groups move between different locations.</li> <li>VSA/FST to remain vigilant at all times to prevent anyone 'just having a look' and wandering off over the edge.</li> <li>Once safety talk is complete the whole group make their way to the beach.</li> </ul>	LOW

Cliff collapse, rock fall or impact from rock or stone onto person/s on the beach.	VSA FST VC	1	75	75	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• FST to instruct everyone to keep away from the base of the cliff and ensure that no activities take place close to the base of any cliff.</li> <li>• FST to assess the risk visually of the cliff stability, keeping away from fresh falls or over hangs,</li> <li>• VSA/FST to heed all warning signs given on the cliff top or in the car park.</li> <li>• FST/VSA to ensure that stones are not thrown at any time by anyone on the beach or cliff top.</li> </ul>	LOW
Drowning in the sea.	VSA FST VC	1	75	75	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• VSA/FST to warn in safety talk that no one should go near the sea at anytime, even to paddle, or work with their back to the sea.</li> <li>• FST to ensure that they have a throw line and have sufficient practice in it's use prior to the activity day.</li> <li>• FST/VSA to ensure that they take the prevailing sea and weather conditions into account prior to any activities taking place. The FST should be prepared to alter the activity if conditions are unsafe</li> <li>• FST/VSA to enforce clear boundaries in which the children must work under supervision of the VSA at all times.</li> <li>• The FST/VSA should monitor the depth and potential flow into, or out of any rock pool to the open sea. Changes in the initial conditions of the fieldwork area should be acted upon immediately, and the location changed if necessary.</li> </ul>	LOW
Injury caused by ranging poles or fishing nets.	VSA FST VC	1	40	40	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• VSA/FST to ensure ranging poles are carried one at a time in the vertical position VSA to choose suitable carriers.</li> <li>• Poles and fishing nets to be placed together away from thoroughfares</li> <li>• VSA/FST should use their discretion to limit the number of nets carried at any time</li> </ul>	LOW
Injury caused by flotsam or jetsam.	VSA FST VC	3	20	60	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• VSA/FST to include warning in safety talk, no one should pick anything up on the beach unless they are certain they know what it is. If they are unsure then the FST must be informed and they will investigate further, and act accordingly.</li> <li>• VSA/FST to conduct an initial survey of the beach prior to activity checking for anything which may cause injury.</li> <li>• Any activities that include the collection of materials should include a safety talk by the FST detailing the sorts of things they should find. Anything dangerous that may be present, e.g. jelly fish should also be detailed at this time.</li> </ul>	LOW

Slip, trip or fall on the beach, or car park.	VSA FST VC	3	20	60	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>VSA/FST to include warning in safety talk, certain areas will be slippery, extreme care should be taken at all times. Running should be avoided at all times.</li> <li>VSA/FST should consider areas of highest risk and avoid them wherever possible. The rock and boulder jetties and protection for the sea wall should not be climbed under any circumstances.</li> <li>VSA/FST should ensure that the whole group has suitable footwear for the activity.</li> <li>VSA/FST should ensure that VC and themselves do not overburden themselves with equipment or luggage</li> </ul>	LOW
Collision with car or other vehicle on route to fieldwork site or beach.	FST VSA VC	1	75	75	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>FST to warn of dangers involved in walking along the road.</li> <li>FST to ensure that a VSA or FST is positioned at the back and front of the group.</li> <li>FST/VSA should wear high visibility jackets.</li> <li>FST to ensure group is all on the same side of the road.</li> <li>FST/VSA to ensure that VC walk in single file along the road and pavement where ever possible</li> </ul>	LOW

**Risk Assessment for Beach Activities in Lyme Regis, Dorset.**

Hazard/Risk	Who could be affected by the hazard.	Likelihood of being affected.	Worst consequences of being effected.	Total for risk assessed.	Controls to reduce risk.	Residual risk level
Cliff collapse, rock fall or impact from rock or stone onto person/s on the beach.	VSA FST VC	1	75	75	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>FST to include warning in safety talk telling everyone to keep away from the base of the cliff, particularly during the winter or in periods of wet weather.</li> <li>FST to assess the risk visually of the cliff stability, keeping away from fresh falls or over hangs, and then chooses activity areas accordingly.</li> <li>VSA/FST to heed all warning signs.</li> <li>FST/VSA to ensure that stones are not thrown at any time by anyone on the beach.</li> </ul>	LOW
Drowning in the sea.	VSA FST VC	1	75	75	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>VSA/FST to include warning in safety talk no one should go near the sea at anytime, even to paddle.</li> <li>FST to ensure that they have a throw line and have sufficient practice in it's use prior to the activity day.</li> <li>FST to ensure that they take the prevailing sea and weather conditions into account prior to any activities taking place. The FST should be prepared to alter the activity should any of the conditions change, or be considered unsuitable. Contact should be made with the Lyme Regis Harbourmaster.</li> </ul>	LOW

					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• FST/VSA to enforce clear boundaries in which the children must work under supervision of the VSA at all times.</li> <li>• The FST/VSA should monitor the depth and potential flow into, or out of any rock pool to the open sea. Changes in the initial conditions of the fieldwork area should be acted upon immediately, and the location changed.</li> <li>• Any child who does not comply with warning and safety instructions must be removed from the beach to a safe area away from risk.</li> </ul>	
Injury caused by flotsome or jetsome.	VSA FST VC	1	75	75	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• VSA/FST to include warning in safety talk, no one should pick anything up on the beach unless they are certain they know what it LOW is. If they are unsure then the FST must be informed and they will investigate further, and act accordingly.</li> <li>• VSA/FST to conduct an initial survey of the beach prior to activity checking for anything which may cause injury.</li> <li>• Any activities that include the collection of materials should include a safety introduction by the FST detailing the sorts of things they should find including used syringes and condoms. Anything dangerous that may be present, e.g. jelly fish in the right conditions, should also be detailed at this time.</li> </ul>	LOW
Slip, trip or fall on the beach, or car park.	VSA FST VC	2	20	40	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• VSA/FST to include warning in safety talk, certain areas will be slippery due to weed, or water or both, extreme care should be taken at all times. Children must not run.</li> <li>• VSA/FST should consider areas of highest risk and avoid them wherever possible.</li> <li>• VSA/FST should ensure that the whole group has suitable footwear for the activity.</li> <li>• VSA/FST should ensure that VC and themselves do not over burden themselves equipment or luggage impairing free movement.<sup>iii</sup></li> </ul>	LOW
Injury caused by falling on pebble beach.	VSA FST VC	1	75	75	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• VSA/FST to include warning that the pebble beach is unstable and that running on it could cause leg injuries.</li> </ul>	LOW
Injury caused by ranging poles or fishing nets.	VSA FST VC	1	40	40	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• VSA/FST to include warning in safety talk, ranging poles should be carried in the vertical position; guidance should be taken from VSA to choose suitable carriers.</li> <li>• Poles and fishing nets to be placed together in an obvious position away from thoroughfares and paths.</li> <li>• VSA/FST should use their discretion to limit the number of nets carried at any time; only one ranging pole should be carried by any one person.</li> </ul>	LOW
Injury caused by tripping on or falling from the Cobb	VSA FST VC	1	75	75	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children warned that the surface of the Cobb is uneven.</li> <li>• Children not allowed to use the top wall.</li> </ul>	LOW

					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Children to walk in a column on the raised inner walkway with staff between them and the exposed edge.</li> </ul>	
Injury caused by falling down the slope in Langmoor and Lister Gardens	VSA FST VC	1	40	40	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Children warned that the slopes in the gardens are steep and that footpaths must be used at all times.</li> <li>Children forbidden to run or roll down the slopes.</li> <li>The steps in Langmoor Gardens must be avoided.</li> </ul>	LOW

### **Risk Assessment for Seashore Activities and Surveying at West Bay, Dorset.**

The weather and tides play a crucial role in the success of any beach based activities. Hooke Court endeavours to provide activities that are safe and present a minimal risk to children, visiting staff/adults and our own tutors. Should the tides or weather conditions present an increased risk to the group, then alternative activities will be arranged by the FST. These activities may or may not take place on the beach. Any child who does not comply with the warning and safety instructions issued by the FST must be removed from the beach by the VSA and kept in a safer area until the rest of the group have finished their work.

Hazard/Risk	Who could be affected by hazard.	Likelihood of being affected	Worst consequence of being affected	Risk Level	How hazard/risk is mitigated	Residual risk level
Fall over, or down steep cliff, promenade or harbour edge.	VSA FST VC	1	75	75	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>VSA/FST to ensure that children are supervised leaving the coach and given safety talk before any activity begins.</li> <li>VSA/FST set clear boundaries in each area of activity and before groups move between different locations.</li> <li>VSA/FST to remain vigilant at all times to prevent anyone 'just having a look' and wandering off over the edge.</li> <li>Once safety talk is complete the whole group make their way to the beach.</li> </ul>	MED
Cliff collapse, rock fall or impact from rock or stone onto person/s on the beach.	VSA FST VC	1	75	75	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>FST to instruct everyone to keep away from the base of the cliff</li> <li>FST to assess the risk visually of the cliff stability, keeping away from fresh falls or over hangs,</li> <li>VSA/FST to heed all warning signs given on the cliff top or in the car park.</li> <li>FST/VSA to ensure that stones are not thrown at any time by anyone on the beach or cliff top.</li> </ul>	MED
Drowning in the sea.	VSA FST VC	1	75	75	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>VSA/FST to warn in safety talk that no one should go near the sea at anytime, even to paddle, or work with their back to the sea.</li> <li>FST to ensure that they have a throw line and have sufficient practice in it's use prior to the activity day.</li> </ul>	MED

					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>FST/VSA to ensure that they take the prevailing sea and weather conditions into account prior to any activities taking place. The FST should be prepared to alter the activity if conditions are unsafe</li> <li>FST/VSA to enforce clear boundaries in which the children must work under supervision of the VSA at all times.</li> <li>The FST/VSA should monitor the depth and potential flow into, or out of any rock pool to the open sea. Changes in the initial conditions of the fieldwork area should be acted upon immediately, and the location changed if necessary.</li> </ul>	
Injury caused by ranging poles or fishing nets.	VSA FST VC	1	40	40	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>VSA/FST to ensure ranging poles are carried one at a time in the vertical position VSA to choose suitable carriers.</li> <li>Poles and fishing nets to be placed together away from thoroughfares</li> <li>VSA/FST should use their discretion to limit the number of nets carried at any time</li> </ul>	LOW
Injury caused by flotsam or jetsam.	VSA FST VC	5	20	100	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>VSA/FST to include warning in safety talk, no one should pick anything up on the beach unless they are certain they know what it is. If they are unsure then the FST must be informed and they will investigate further, and act accordingly.</li> <li>VSA/FST to conduct an initial survey of the beach prior to activity checking for anything which may cause injury.</li> <li>Any activities that include the collection of materials should include a safety talk by the FST detailing the sorts of things they should find. Anything dangerous that may be present, e.g. jelly fish should also be detailed at this time.</li> </ul>	MED
Slip, trip or fall on the beach, or car park.	VSA FST VC	5	20	100	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>VSA/FST to include warning in safety talk, certain areas will be slippery, extreme care should be taken at all times. Running should be avoided at all times.</li> <li>VSA/FST should consider areas of highest risk and avoid them wherever possible. The rock and boulder jetties and protection for the sea wall should not be climbed under any circumstances.</li> <li>VSA/FST should ensure that the whole group has suitable footwear for the activity.</li> </ul>	MED

					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>VSA/FST should ensure that VC and themselves do not overburden themselves with equipment or luggage</li> </ul>	
Collision with car or other vehicle on route to fieldwork site or beach.	FST VSA VC	1	75	75	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>FST to warn of dangers involved in walking along the road.</li> <li>FST to ensure that a VSA or FST is positioned at the back and front of the group.</li> <li>FST/VSA should wear high visibility jackets.</li> <li>FST to ensure group is all on the same side of the road.</li> <li>FST/VSA to ensure that VC walk in single file along the road and pavement where ever possible</li> </ul>	MED

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Date Reviewed: January 2026

Next Review Date: January 2027