



GUIDELINES FOR SCHOOL STAFF ON FIELD TRIPS TO LULWORTH COVE AND DURDLÉ DOOR

Lulworth Rangers' Education Statement

The Lulworth Ranger Service aims to provide a safe, quality learning experience, to students of all ages, on site at Lulworth Cove and Durdle Door.

Our sessions are curriculum led, but not restrained, and deliver each school's key stated learning outcomes. The team embraces the 'access for all' approach and endeavor to create learning opportunities, whenever possible, for all abilities, beliefs and backgrounds. We aim to enthuse students about the outdoor environment using techniques that encompass different learning styles.

The below sections outline the responsibilities of the Rangers and school staff so please ensure this is read thoroughly for a smooth and efficient visit regardless if you have used the service in the past.

1. Weather Conditions

General guidelines that will alter or potentially cancel/postpone the visit:

Rain – if rain is heavy or prolonged it is not advisable to walk to Durdle Door. No child without a coat will be permitted out in prolonged rain.

Fog – if Hambury Tout path is in dense fog the walk to Durdle Door will be cancelled. Local conditions will be assessed at the Cove by the Rangers on the day. The beach is out of bounds during periods of heavy fog.

Wind – if the wind is making progress difficult, the tour will be ceased by the Ranger as offshore gusts can be a serious hazard, especially for Key Stage 2 groups and younger.

Snow and Hail – if the group is subjected to prolonged snow or hail, the Ranger will seek nearby shelter or return to the visitor centre until the weather improves.

2. Beaches

No climbing or scrambling on rocks or cliff faces is permitted. No throwing stones (except into the sea under supervision).

*If using beaches outside of Ranger led time, please consider the following:

Stair Hole – The beach is out of bounds for all groups.

Lulworth Cove – Please use the beach to the right of the slipway; between the stream and the concrete bunker. Children are not to go on the rocks behind the rockpools.



Durdle Door – The steps to the beach have been re-instated after washing away in 2012. Please use care when using these especially after periods of heavy rain.

Man O’War – use the beach with caution due to tides. Keep away from cliff bases/caves where the cliff reaches vertical or overhangs.

St. Oswalds – the walk back along the beach has not been used since 1997 due to cliff falls. It is not to be used for leading school groups back to Lulworth. The 2013 cliff fall has further intensified this reason.

3. Health & Safety Guidelines

In addition to those stated on the below list, the following must be satisfied before setting off:

- i. The group has a first aider and first aid kit.
- ii. Dangers of the cliffs and sea are pointed out to everyone in the group.
- iii. At no time should the pupils be ahead of the Ranger/Leading Teacher.
- iv. If there are any students with special needs / asthma / deafness etc. that may affect how the tour is led, the teaching staff must make the Ranger aware of them.
- v. Group instructed on how to respond to the Ranger whistle.

Maximum Group Number:

If there is a single class, the Ranger may take a maximum of **35** students. After booking but before your visit, if your group number increases over a multiple of this (i.e. 35, 70, 105 etc.) the Rangers need to be notified immediately as we will need to arrange extra staffing which may incur an extra charge.

First Aid:

All schools should bring their own First Aider and First Aid kits for each group of 35. These should be carried at all times outside the building. It is the responsibility of the school to know any individual medical issues that students may have and how to deal with these. However, please make the Ranger aware of these prior to the session.

All Rangers will carry a first aid kit, whistle and mobile phone at all times issued by the Centre.

Ratios

The minimum adult:pupil ratio that must be maintained whilst on a Ranger led tour is **1:10**. There must be a minimum of 2 supervising adults with any group at all times, one of which **must** be a teacher. These ratios **do not** include the Ranger in charge of the group.



Recommended staff:pupil ratios near water hazards for Dorset (e.g. Rivers or Sea).

Primary 1 : 6 (up to and including Year 5)
Secondary 1 : 10

e.g. 18 children require 3 adults at primary level
 25 – 30 children require 5 adults at primary level.

 20 children require 2 adults at secondary level.
 21 – 30 children require 3 adults at secondary level.

If a student has to leave the group for any reason, the Ranger will ensure that an adult is with that pupil at all times. The school staff need to decide on an appropriate adult in advance of the trip for such eventualities.

If a teacher has to leave the group for any reason, the Ranger will not proceed further if there is less than 1 adult to 10 pupils. However this ratio can include the Ranger in case of emergency. The group will be led from their position to a suitable pick up point at Lulworth Cove or Durdle Door campsite by the Ranger in charge if ratios cannot be maintained.

On the Tour:

We ask that one adult remains at the front of the group and one at the rear during the tour.

The Ranger staff are on site to provide teaching and to enhance your visit with local knowledge. We therefore ask that teachers and supervising adults are responsible for maintaining an appropriate level of behaviour.

If bad or dangerous behaviour is displayed and left uncontrolled by the teaching staff of the school, the Ranger may alter the tour, turn back or lead the group to the nearest collection point at Lulworth Cove or Durdle Door campsite.

If in any situation the Ranger has serious safety concerns but the school staff insist on continuing, the Ranger will make clear that the tour is over, that they have advised the group not to continue and the decision is the sole responsibility of the school staff.

Not on the tour:

Outside of the parameters of the tour when the Ranger is not with the group, responsibility for group safety is entirely up to the school staff. This is before commencing the session, once the session has formally ended and whilst the group is on lunch between the morning and afternoon sessions (if booked on a full day visit).

The Ranger will discuss and agree with the teacher in charge how long a break for lunch is required and therefore when responsibility for safety includes the Ranger.

General Safety

Clothing: Wear stout shoes or boots. Carry waterproof clothing. Bring a hat suited to the time of year.

Cliffs: All cliffs are potentially dangerous. Do not stand under, on the edge of or climb up cliffs.

Tides: Some of the beaches can be cut off by tides. The Rangers will check tide times before setting out if the group is using the beach.

Dehydration: Please ensure every child brings a bottle of water on the tour, especially if you are walking to Durdle Door in the summer.

Hazards

Identified Hazards	Who might be harmed, and how.	Current controls in place	Likelihood (L)	Severity (S)	Risk score (LxS)	What further controls are required.
Client separated/lost	Clients. Increased risk of injury or exposure when not with guided group or if unable to swiftly locate.	Count clients at start of session, followed by recounts at regular intervals.	1	3	3	
		Buddy system introduced by guide.				
		Activity postponed/cancelled if fog/sea mist is very thick (<100m visibility).				
		Emergency action plan in place and carried by guide staff.				
Poisonous animals and plants	All. Contact with poisonous or venomous animals or plants.	All briefed to remain clear of and not disturb any animals or snakes.	2	4	8	
		Advise clients not to touch plants unless told otherwise.				

Diseases, bacteria	All, Contact with contaminated items, or disease carrying animals. E.g Leptosporosis, ticks, and similar.	Avoid long grass unless full length legwear is worn.	2	3	6	
		Advise clients to check for ticks and the correct method of removal.				
		No contact permitted with dead or decaying matter.				
		Good personal hygiene encouraged. (Wash before eating drinking, smoking)				
		Advise clients to contact a medical professional if they are unsure.				
Sunlight	All, Injury as a result of prolonged or excessive exposure to the sun, sunburn, sun stroke.	Advise clients to use high SPF sunscreen.	1	2	2	
		Promote the use of wide brim sun hats.				
		Guides supplied with sun protection.				
		Regular water breaks.				
		Guide to monitor group for signs of distress.				
		Guide to carry extra fresh water.				
Dehydration	All. Injuries and confusion associated with lack of water intake.	Brief group on importance of staying hydrated.	2	2	4	
		Guide to carry extra fresh water.				
Uneven/ steep ground/Cliff and edges.	All injured as a result of a slip trip or fall.	Staff and clients to wear sturdy footwear.	2	3	6	
		Brief group not to run and method of movement on steep/slippy ground.				
		All staff first aid qualified and administer first aid and call emergency services as required.				
		Routes chosen to minimise potentially hazardous areas.				
		All directed to stay clear of cliff, river or other natural unprotected edges.				

		Stick to footpaths				
Machinery	All Injured as a result of contact with moving or static machinery.	Keep clear of all machinery.	1	4	4	
		Routes chosen to minimise potentially hazardous areas.				
		Brief clients not to approach.				
Barbed wire fences	All. Injured as a result of contact with sharp wire.	Stick to footpaths.	2	2	4	
		Only use gates and stiles to cross fences.				
		Report any jagged wire/broken fences to countryside ranger.				
Dangerous man-made objects	All. Injured as a result of contact with or exposure to unexploded ordinance.	Advise all parties to stay clear and inform police.	1	4	4	
Disturbance to local population	All	Brief group to be courteous of all.	1	1	1	
Livestock/ sea creatures	All. Injured as a result of contact with animals. Bites, stings, crush, kick injuries.	Keep clear of livestock.	1	3	3	
		Keep to field boundaries where possible.				
		Advise group not to touch any sealife unless cleared with staff.				
		Livestock areas to be avoided where possible if dogs present.				
		Any dogs present to be kept in lead at all times.				
		Advise groups to move quietly through livestock areas.				
Weather (e.g. hyper/hypo thermia)	All. Injured as a result of exposure to weather (Hyper/hypo thermia) Increased risk of other injuries (slip trip fall etc) in some conditions (low visibility, ice, rain and	Staff to carry spare clothing and group shelter.	1	2	2	
		Staff retain the right to cancel sessions at short notice if risk levels increase to an unacceptable level.				
		Weather forecast to be checked prior to activity and throughout activity.				
		Activity program to be changed if necessary.				



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	similar.					
Waves/Tide /Offshore currents	All. Injured as a result of contact with the sea, drowning, exposure, loss.	Children not to enter water.	1	4	4	Consider addition of throw rope to guide kit.
		Swimming not advised or encouraged during walk activities				
		Clients not to be more than ankle deep when rockpooling.				
Hammering rocks	All. Injured by impact from ejected particles, dust and crush injuries.	Rocks must not be hammered, site is an SSSI.	1	2	2	
Beach access cut off by tide	All. Injured as a result of loss of safe access/egress	Tide times to be checked before session. All sessions arranged with route, and tides taken into account. Guides to monitor times and tides throughout session. Routes to be changed if sufficient safe window in tides is lost.	1	2	2	Consider setting 'safe window' times for various routes/tides
Violent wave action on headlands	All. Injured as a result of wave impact, slips or falls, entry into sea.	Headland areas to be avoided during large swell/wave conditions.	1	4	4	
		Weather forecast and sea conditions to be checked prior to activity and throughout activity.				
		Group to remain clear of cliff edges.				
Loose or slippery rocks	All, injured as a result of slip trips or falls.	Brief group on loose/slippy areas Suitable footwear to be worn at all times. Group briefed on safe method of movement on slippy/steep surfaces.	2	3	6	



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Moving vehicles	All. Injured as a result of collision with moving vehicles.	Brief group to keep clear of vehicles. Maintain awareness at all times. Routes planned to utilise segregated footpaths where ever possible.	1	3	3	
Falling rocks	All. Injured as a result of impact or entrapment by falling rocks.	All groups briefed to keep clear from the bottom of cliffs. Guides to monitor group during walks. Cliff state regularly checked for overhangs, degradation and erosion. Staff to be vigilant of cracks or movement of cliff bottoms.	1	4	4	
Helicopter rescues	All. Injured as a result of proximity of helicopter, impact, amputation or falls due to wind/downdra ft.	Guides to maintain clear area and control of group during any rescue operation. Everyone to stay clear of incoming helicopters and follow instructions from air crew.	1	4	4	Approach coastguard for training.
Covered fissures	All. Injured as a result of fall into or trip on covered fissure.	Routes chosen on known paths/areas.	1	3	3	
		Stick to known routes/footpaths at all times.				
		Staff to be aware of changeable conditions.				
Litter/ pollution	All. Injury or illness as a result of contact with waste material.	Stay clear of any waste material Staff to wear correct P.P.E for waste removal. (minimum of suitable gloves). Good levels of personal hygiene encouraged. (Wash hands prior to eating drinking or smoking.)	1	1	1	



NB: This is not intended to be a fully comprehensive list of hazards. Please check and satisfy your own LEA guidelines for outdoor education before participating in any field visit.

Emergency Services:

Summoning help – The rangers will use their mobile phones to call 999 in the event of any emergency. If for any reason this is not possible the Ranger will designate one suitable adult from the group to raise the alarm at the nearest location.

The closest A&E departments are Dorchester and Poole which are both approximately 25mins away by ambulance. There is however an emergency first responder in West Lulworth who can attend an emergency within 5 minutes if on site.

Important Grid References/Post Codes:

Lulworth Cove	825 798	BH20 5RQ
Durdle Door	806 803	BH20 5PU
Bindon Hill	825 803	
Hambury Tout Footpath	815 803	

Useful phone numbers:	Heritage Centre	01929 400587
	Durdle Door Campsite	01929 400200
	Lulworth Rangers	01929 400155

Mobile Phones:

Not all networks work at Lulworth Cove and are unreliable at Durdle Door. O2 is the most reliable. The Rangers will carry a working mobile phone whilst on the tour with your group.

4. Cancellations

If you need to cancel or postpone your visit please advise us as early as possible. In most cases we can rearrange your visit if required. If this is not a possibility and we have had at least one weeks' notice, we can refund the cost of your Ranger led tour. Cancelled tours through no fault of our own and without sufficient notice will not be refunded.

The Rangers retain the right to cancel visits on the basis of extreme weather conditions. In this instance, we will endeavour to rearrange for another suitable date at no extra cost to the school. Again, if this is not possible the cost of the tour will be refunded.



The Rangers also retain the right to cancel the tour if bad/dangerous behaviour is compromising the safety of the group. No refund or rearrangement date will be made for this occurrence as it is the responsibility of the school staff to control students' conduct.

If there is anything that needs further clarification in terms of user/provider responsibility, health and safety, ratio's etc. please contact us at your earliest convenience.

Kind regards,

The Lulworth Rangers
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