

RISK ASSESSMENT. The following information is intended to explain the dangers you may encounter on a fossil hunt and how you can minimise those risks to yourself and others. Please read the details carefully and ensure anyone accompanying you or within your care are also fully informed.

DANGER	DESCRIPTION	WHO IS AT RISK?	SEVERITY	PROBABILITY	HOW TO REDUCE RISK
HAMMER & CHISEL	<p>It is likely that participants will require the use of a hammer & chisel to extract fossils.</p> <p>There is a risk of injury from striking fingers, as well as rock fragments being ejected at speed from the point of impact.</p>	<p>The user of the tools are at most risk. Observers may be in range of flying debris.</p> <p>Everyone participating in the fossil hunt.</p>	<p>Bruised/cut/ broken fingers from contact between the hammer & chisel.</p> <p>Fragments of rock debris coming into contact with eyes, can cause mild to severe eye trauma.</p>	<p>LOW/MODERATE</p> <p>It is not uncommon for people to bruise fingers</p>	<p>Participants are asked to hammer slowly and carefully, avoiding placing fingers on top of the chisel. Safety glasses MUST always be worn while hammering or observing. UKAFH will carry plasters and sterile eyewash in the event of an accident.</p>
SLIPPERY SURFACES /ROUGH TERRAIN	<p>It is likely during a fossil hunt that you will be required to walk on/over loose, slippery rocks or shingle.</p> <p>Green algae may be covering the rocks. If so, this will increase the risk of slipping underfoot.</p>	<p>Everyone attending the fossil hunt.</p> <p>Young people and Those not stable on their feet are at greater risk.</p>	<p>Slipping and/or falling could result in twisted ankles, sprained wrists and possible impacts to the body and head.</p>	<p>LOW</p> <p>It is very common for people to have minor slips but there has been nothing major to report.</p>	<p>Walking boots with ankle supports are encouraged. Hard hats are mandatory. (Cycle helmets and Horse Riding hats are NOT permitted).</p> <p>Participants are asked to walk carefully and slowly at all times. UKAFH leaders will carry first aid kit and an attending member of the UKAFH team is First Aid trained.</p>

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FALLING ROCKS	All cliffs are liable to partial or large-scale collapse without warning. Individual boulders or large sections of the cliff face may fall.	Everyone attending the fossil hunt.	Impact to the head are the greatest danger. Serious injury from impacts to the head and body could be the result of falling from the cliff top / quarry face	MODERATE or quarry face There has been no large-scale cliff falls during UKAFH fossil hunts, although there has been evidence of recent activity.	Fossil hunts take place at a safe distance from the cliff base or quarry face. Hard hats MUST be worn at all times. Participants will not be allowed to climb cliffs at any time
STEEP / HIGH DROPS	The group may be required to pass close to cliff edges. The group may be required to descend several steep steps.	Everyone participating in the fossil hunt. Young people and those unstable on their feet are at greatest risk.	Serious injury from impacts to the head and body could be the result of falling from the cliff top or steps.	LOW There have been no incidents to date.	Please walk slowly and carefully at all times. Avoid getting close to the cliff edges. A UKAFH leader will check the route ahead of the group and discuss the terrain and alternative routes if needed.
TIDAL / DEEP WATER	Participants are likely to come in contact with water/sea water during the hunt, which poses a risk of drowning no matter how deep.	Everyone participating in the fossil hunt. Young people and those unstable on their feet are at greatest risk.	In the worse case scenario there is a possibility of drowning	LOW There have been no incidents to date.	Keep close to the shore. Avoid walking into deep water. Young people and those slow on their feet MUST be accompanied. UKAFH leaders will keep an eye on the tide.

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WEATHER	Inclement weather can potentially reduce visibility and cause issues with foothold	Everyone attending the event	Reduced visibility could potentially be a risk on sections closest to cliff edges during extreme conditions and where water rapidly collects on footpath sections.	MODERATE	Route revised to ensure party is well clear of footpath closest to cliff edge or where water has gathered, potentially impeding walkers or access.
CHANGES IN SURFACE LEVEL AND STEPS	Changes to the height of the path route to access the site and within the site itself may present difficulty to some individuals.	Everyone attending the event	Slipping and/or falling could result in twisted ankles, sprained wrists and possible impacts to the body and head	LOW	Participants are advised to walk slowly down any inclines or steps. Leaders will carry first aid kit, plasters and sterile eye-wash in the event of an accident.
VEHICLES AND CAR PARKS	The car parking areas and roadsides may involve a lot of vehicle movement.	Everyone attending	Accidents involving motor vehicles can result in severe impacts to the head and body and may be fatal.	LOW	Participants made aware of risks. Leaders ensure that crossing and walking beside roads are conducted sensibly. Group made aware of oncoming traffic. Participants made aware of vehicle movement in car parking areas. Ensure children are well-supervised.

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<p>OTHER MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC</p>	<p>Other members of the public may be affected by the presence of a large field trip. They may become threatening or abusive.</p>	<p>Everyone attending the event</p>	<p>Members of the public and including members of other field trips may become confrontational, depending on circumstances.</p>	<p>LOW</p>	<p>Maintain well-organised groups, easily distinguishable from other members of the public. (i.e. wearing of high vis)</p> <p>Avoid anyone who appears threatening.</p> <p>Supervisors to monitor other members of the public with a view to spotting potential problems.</p>