

Charmouth Parish Council

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GUIDED FOSSIL WALKS CODE OF PRACTICE

The Parish Council as owners of the Foreshore within the Parish of Charmouth grant permission to carry out fossil walks on and across its beaches within Charmouth Parish boundaries. This permit is for the applicant only. Photo permit badge to be worn when guiding.

Permission is granted subject to the following conditions set out below:

- That the Council reserves the right to withdraw its consent if the conditions set out below are not adhered to, if the policies in reference to fossil walks on its beaches are altered, or if the Council feels it necessary for any reason.
- This Code of Practice is reviewed every 12 months.
- The walk organiser/leader must hold an insurance indemnity for public liability (minimum £5 million) and a first aid qualification, preferably a 16 hour outdoor qualification, proof of which must be shown to the Council.
- The Council will determine where the walk leader meets the clients when permission is granted.
- Before any walk, health and safety instructions should be given to and agreed by clients along with information about the Code of Responsible Fossil Collecting within the World Heritage Site.
- That good practice should be carried out at all times in the use of appropriate tools.
- That the walk leader and his/her clients should respect other users of the beach at all times.
- That the walk leader and his/her clients should consider the status of the site.
- Groups should be no more than 20 people per walk leader at any one time, unless a lower number is stipulated by the leader's insurance company, in the interest of both safety and value for money. With the exception of:
 - School parties who have their own staff to ensure an adequate staff to pupil ratio.
 - CCHC fossil walks who have qualified leaders and experienced volunteers to achieve a 1 to 14 ratio.
- All fossil hunting walks sessions need to start their beach activities on a falling tide and must finish an hour and a half after low tide. Leaders should carefully consider the state of the sea and weather conditions, which can affect the height of the tide and the state of the cliffs in terms of rainwater, which causes landslides and rock falls.

Permission must be applied for in writing with proof of public liability insurance and first aid certificate. Permission is only valid on receipt of a confirmation letter from the Parish Council.

Approved by Council: March 2017
Reviewed: June 2018; March 2020; April 2021, Feb 2023
Review Due: Feb 2025