

Charmouth Parish Council

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GUIDED FOSSIL WALKS – TEMPORARY CODE OF PRACTICE (COVID-19)

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. The beaches in question stretch from the “Vine Yard” below the head of Evans Cliff to the East (at the present fall) to Canary Ledges in the West “Black Ven”.

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- This Code of Practice replaces the Code of Practice issued in June 2019 and will be reviewed, amended or withdrawn as the case may be in light of any guidance issued by HM Government and in any case if not previously withdrawn in April 2021 and then every 12 months thereafter.
- The walk organiser/leader must hold an insurance indemnity for public liability, 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 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 six people per walk leader at any one time in the interest of COVID-19 safety (with the exception of school parties who have their own staff to ensure staff to pupil ratio).
- All fossil hunting walks sessions need to start their beach activities 3 hours after high tide and finish an hour either side of low tide, unless express permission has been sought from the appropriate landowners.
- With regard to adverse weather, leaders should carefully consider the state of the sea, 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 is only valid on receipt of a confirmation letter from the Parish Council confirming meeting point etc.

Review Due: 1st April 2021