Site risk assessment form

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Property	Cliff Field	**Location**	Lympstone	**Ref No.**	
Council	Lympstone Parish	**Chairman**	Cllr Lisa Staddon	**Date**	03/03/2025
Activity	Visitor and Clubs Site Risk Assessment				

Description:

This is a risk assessment of the visitor routes at Cliff Field split in to high, medium and low-level use.
The use of the field takes account of different levels of use and types of activity, reflecting the numbers of people that use the area and the time that they spend in that area. The risk assessment follows the guiding principles of the 'managing visitor safety in the countryside; principles & practice' guidance produced by the Visitor Safety in the Countryside Group and is relevant for visitors to site, contractors, councillors, scouts and Lympstone Football Club (LFC). Any specific activities carried out on the site are covered through other risk assessments. Cliff Field is used daily by dog walkers and people using the footpaths to, from and around the field. The field hosts beautiful views across the estuary and is surrounded by part hedge and trees on the boundary and along the cliff edge. Once a week, the scouts and football club use the field. The scout group have their own hut on site. The football club have a marked football pitch with two goal posts, a toilet unit and storage container on site. (Toilets only accessible when opened by LFC). The field is used occasionally for community events. Both the scouts and LFC have their own risk assessments written and insurance. Both groups have provided LPC with copies of these. The field is easily accessible by vehicle, but the vehicular gate is permanently locked unless permission is granted. The field has three pedestrian gates to access the field. DCC has a marked footpath into and through the field. Cliff field is owned by the National Trust but managed by the Parish Council.
March 2024 – Two recent cliff falls have eroded the Cliff edge above and behind the sailing club on the foreshore below. Overhanging trees along the Cliff edge to be reviewed immediately with the National Trust.

Beach hazards
LPC does not take responsibility for hazards at sea, this role is taken on by other organisations such as Heritage England, the Harbour Board and Exe Estuary Partnership Management. The estuary is not manned.

Severity of the hazard:
How serious are the consequences likely to be? Extreme (fatality) / Serious (major injury or serious ill health / Moderate (minor injury)
Likelihood of the event:
How likely is it that the event will occur? Remote / Possible / Likely
Adequacy of controls:
Are existing precautions adequate? Good (most precautions in place) / Fair (some deficiencies) / Weak (serious deficiencies)

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Entrance to field – low risk				
Nature of hazard	**Groups at risk**	**Current precautions**	**Estimation of risk**	**Potential additional precautions**
Vehicle to vehicle contact	Visitors, contractors, scouts and LFC	The entrance to Cliff field is kept clear and free of vegetation. 'No parking' signs are installed at the entrance to the road leading to the field. The vehicular access gate is locked unless permission is sought. The field does not have any vehicular movement during wet weather.	Severity of hazard : moderate Likelihood of event : remote Adequacy of controls : good	Additional adult supervision when vehicles enter the field.
Vehicles entering and exiting the highway coming into contact with pedestrians.	Visitors, contractors, scouts and LFC	A well-maintained path runs alongside the access road to Cliff field. Vegetation is cut back as part of regular cutting schedule to ensure visibility remains clear along the length of the path.	Severity of hazard : moderate Likelihood of event : remote Adequacy of controls : good	
Trip/slips due to uneven surfaces.	Visitors, contractors, scouts and LFC	Paths are inspected in quarterly checks and repaired as required.	Severity of hazard : low Likelihood of event : remote Adequacy of controls : good	LFC maintain the football pitch and inform LPC for any potholes/damage to pitch surface and LFC to repair as necessary.
Scout building at entrance to field	Visitors, contractors, scouts and LFC	The scout building is a secure building.	Severity of hazard : low Likelihood of event : remote Adequacy of controls : good	Scouts to repair and inform LPC of work undertaken.
Locked toilets and storage container at entrance to field	Visitors, contractors, LFC	The toilet block and storage container is secure and locked.	Severity of hazard : low Likelihood of event : remote Adequacy of controls : good	Only accessible by LFC. LFC to repair and inform LPC of work undertaken. New LFC container due 2025.
Goal posts	Visitors, contractors, scouts and LFC	The goal posts are packed away tight to the hedge. LFC monitors and rectifies any damage or use of goal posts.	Severity of hazard : low Likelihood of event : remote Adequacy of controls : good	LFC responsible to ensure the safe storage.

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Footpath around Cliff field/cliff edge – high risk				
Nature of hazard	**Groups at risk**	**Current precautions**	**Estimation of risk**	**Potential additional precautions**
Trip/slips due to uneven path surfaces.	Visitors, contractors, scouts and LFC	The coast path is away from the eroding cliff edge. In sections there is a sheer drop from the cliff edge of 20ft to the estuary below. Vegetation is left uncut along the cliff edge to prevent users approaching too close to the cliff edge. The path surface around the field is a grassy track but due to large numbers of visitors this is now bare earth in several places. The path surface can get muddy and as a result slippery in times of persistently wet weather. During such periods of wet weather, the path surface will be checked and if necessary, temporary signage will be erected and a path diversion to an alternative route considered. All path surfaces and vegetation will be inspected in quarterly checks and repaired as required.	Severity of hazard : Moderate Likelihood of event : Possible Adequacy of controls : Good	Trees along the Cliff edge due to be assessed by NT 2025.
Falling from cliff edges, sheer drops and steep banks	Visitors, contractors, scouts and LFC	Warning signage is present on each entrance to the field warning users of the danger of the cliff edge. Yellow triangular warning signs are present to warn members of the public. All signage will be inspected in quarterly checks and maintained, repaired or	Severity of hazard : Extreme Likelihood of event : Remote Adequacy of controls : Good	**There is currently a heap of soil on the edge of the Cliff edge which is incorrectly placed and needs pulling back asap and when weather improves to dry field surface** Mar 2025

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Footpath around Cliff field/cliff edge – high risk				
Nature of hazard	**Groups at risk**	**Current precautions**	**Estimation of risk**	**Potential additional precautions**
		replaced as required. Records kept in Safety Risk Assessment file with LPCs clerk.		
Path becoming undermined by coastal erosion.	Visitors, contractors, scouts and LFC	The path is checked during quarterly inspection. Any identified actions will be followed up urgently and the path closed to pedestrians.	Severity of hazard : Extreme Likelihood of event : Possible Adequacy of controls : Good	

Assessment carried out by	Lucy Tyrrell	**Job title**	Clerk to Lympstone Parish Council