Site risk assessment form

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Property	The Rag	**Location**	Lympstone	**Ref No.**	
Council	Lympstone Parish	**Chairman**	Cllr Lisa Staddon	**Date**	03/03/2025
Activity	Visitor Site Risk Assessment				

Description:

This is a risk assessment of the visitor routes at The Rag split in to high, medium and low-level use.
The use of the land 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 and contractors. Any specific activities carried out on the site are covered through other risk assessments. The Rag is only accessibly by foot and used sporadically by walkers and cyclists to sit, rest and view the tranquillity and beauty of the estuary from the cliff edge. There are 4 benches to sit on. Stock fencing and a dense hedge surrounds the patch of land. On the roadside of the hedge is a single highway.

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 footpath – low risk				
Nature of hazard	**Groups at risk**	**Current precautions**	**Estimation of risk**	**Potential additional precautions**
Vehicle to vehicle contact	Visitors and contractors	The entrance to The Rag is kept clear and free of vegetation. A 'No parking' sign is installed at the entrance to the land.	Severity of hazard : low Likelihood of event : remote Adequacy of controls : good	Road widens outside of entrance to allow cars to safely pass on highway.
Slippery/worn/mud covered path	Visitors and contractors	Any uneven or damaged surfaces must be appropriately highlighted usually by means of a physical barrier or hazard tape to warn others of the risks until it can be suitably repaired or replaced.	Severity of hazard : low Likelihood of event : remote Adequacy of controls : good	
Trip/slips due to uneven surfaces.	Visitors and contractors	Paths are inspected in quarterly check and repaired as required.	Severity of hazard : moderate Likelihood of event : remote Adequacy of controls : good	

Footpath on The Rag/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 and contractors	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. All path surfaces and vegetation will be inspected in quarterly check and repaired as required.	Severity of hazard : Moderate Likelihood of event : Possible Adequacy of controls : Good	New safety fence erected to keep users away from edge of Cliff (March 2023)

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Footpath on The Rag/cliff edge – high risk				
Nature of hazard	**Groups at risk**	**Current precautions**	**Estimation of risk**	**Potential additional precautions**
Falling from cliff edges, sheer drops and steep banks	Visitors and contractors	Warning sign at entrance to the Rag stating the Cliff edge. The dense hedge and new stock fence (Mar 23) provides a barrier between The Rag and cliff edge. All signage will be inspected in quarterly check and maintained, repaired or replaced as required. Records kept in Safety Risk Assessment file with LPCs clerk.	Severity of hazard : Extreme Likelihood of event : Remote Adequacy of controls : Good	LPC contractor to inform LPC of any gaps in hedge.
Land becoming undermined by coastal erosion.	Visitors and contractors	The land is checked during quarterly inspection. Any identified actions will be followed up urgently and the path entrance to land closed immediately to pedestrians.	Severity of hazard : Extreme Likelihood of event : Remote Adequacy of controls : Good	
Damage to benches	Visitors and contractors	Seats are maintained twice a year.	Severity of hazard : Low Likelihood of event : Remote Adequacy of controls : Good	LPC contractor to report any repairs or replacements required to LPC.

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