

Health & Safety Record Assessment for Fossils.

Hazard/Risk	Who could be affected by hazard.	Likelihood of being affected	Worst consequence of being affected	Total for risk assessed.	Controls to reduce risk.	Residual Risk Level
Graze, abrasion or cut from sharp edged fossil or rock.	FST, VSA, VC	1	5	5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> FST to regularly check fossils and casts for sharp edges both manually and visually. At the end of each term routinely check fossils and file down edges where necessary. 	LOW
Burn or inflammation from handling plasticine or 'new' clay.	FST, VSA, VC	2	5	10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> FST to ensure that plasticine is not too hot before handing it to VSA/VC. If FST uses microwave to heat plasticine then only use short bursts at low power checking the temperature frequently. FST/VSA to ensure hands are washed immediately after handling, or immediately if there is any sign of inflammation or irritation. 	LOW
Crush or impact injury caused by dropping large heavy fossil or rock onto self or other/s	FST, VSA, VC, CGS	1	40	40	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> FST to ensure that any large/heavy fossils are positioned so that they will not fall onto self or other. Hooke Court to ensure that no fossils are kept, for general access, on site that exceed safe weight limits. FST/VSA to ensure that VC do not have access to larger fossil specimens. 	LOW
Infection in new or existing wound from 'new' clay.	FST VSA VC	2	10	20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> FST to warn of danger and provide surgical gloves and waterproof plasters to protect existing or new injuries if wound is considered open. Ultimately, VSA should make decision. FST to ensure plasters and waterproof plasters are available for activity and that there are sufficient supplies to cater for size of group. FST to remind all VSA VC to wash hands with soap and hot water after activity or before any food is handled. 	LOW
Stomach upset, virus or disease caused by contact with 'new' clay, or plaster of Paris.	FST VSA VC	2	20	40	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> FST to warn of danger to group, warn against putting fingers into mouth, chewing pencils, eating clay, etc. FST/VSA/VC to wash hands with soap and hot water after activity. FST to ensure resources used are non toxic. 	LOW
Breathing difficulties caused by inhalation of Plaster of Paris.	FST, VSA, VC, CGS	2	20	40	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> FST to ensure that plaster is not opened or used whilst VSA/VC are present. FST to ensure that they adhere to H&S information provided by the manufacturer and supplier, see attached. 	LOW
Temporary blindness or visual impairment caused by dust or plaster powder getting into eyes.	FST, VSA, VC, CGS	2	20	40	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> FST to ensure that plaster is not opened or used whilst VSA/VC are present. FST to ensure that they adhere to H&S information provided by the manufacturer and supplier, see attached. 	LOW

Date Reviewed: January 2026
Next Review Date: January 2027
