

## Geology fact sheet:

# RESPONSIBLE FOSSIL COLLECTING

The Norfolk coast is one of the best places in the country to find fossils. Fossils are the clues to the history of life on Earth. These remains are, therefore, an extremely important part of our natural heritage and should be treated with care.

Fossil collecting is an enjoyable and rewarding experience, but only if it is carried out in a responsible manner will we be able to maintain our fossil heritage for future generations.



### When you collect fossils:

- Stick to the footpaths provided, climbing on the cliffs is dangerous.
- Never dig into the cliffs, it can add to the cliff erosion.
- Take only a few representative specimens.
- Write a label for your fossils including where and when it was collected, include any other observations. Photographs of where it was collected are always very useful.
- Large fossils can be problematic for individual collectors and should be left for others to see. If in doubt, contact Norfolk Museums Service for advice/ help.
- Remember that fossil sites are for everyone to enjoy and experience. Over collecting will damage this important resource for future visitors.



Norfolk Museums Service offers a **free** fossil identification service.

If you have a fossil that you need help identifying, please email [museums@norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:museums@norfolk.gov.uk) with several images in different orientations and a scale bar.

Please note that we can only accept enquiries relevant to our collections, or from the Norfolk/ East Anglia Region.

