

# LIBRARY

Department of Biodiversity,  
Conservation and Attractions

This PDF has been created for digital preservation. It may be used for research but is not suitable for other purposes. It may be superseded by a more current version or just be out-of-date and have no relevance to current situations.



## The limestone cliffs of Hamelin Bay

The limestone cliffs of the Leeuwin-Naturaliste coast are a fragile and spectacular landform, but along the coast nothing remains the same.

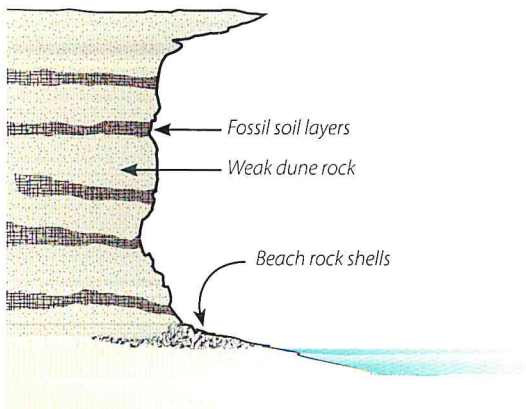
Despite their rugged appearance, the cliffs are constantly changing through the process of weathering by wind and water. Over time sections collapse onto the beach or into the sea as the cliff face ever so gradually moves inland.

Formed over thousands of years, the limestones consist of variable layers of:

- dune rock of loosely cemented windblown sands
- marine sediments
- remnants of past surface soils (fossil soils) and
- conglomerate of beach rock and shell.

At Hamelin Bay, four well-developed fossil soil layers are present, along with a zone from which the fossil soil has been eroded. The dune rock between the layers is loosely held together. Years of weathering by the sea, wind and rain have resulted in undercutting of the cliff base and the development of numerous overhangs, resulting in the collapse of sections of the cliff face.

### Generalised geological profile of Hamelin Bay cliffs



### Limestone Risk Area

Limestone cliffs can collapse without warning.



#### For your safety:

- Stand back from cliff edges.
- Do not stand on limestone overhangs.
- Do not throw rocks over the cliff edge.
- Do not climb on cliffs.
- Stay away from the base of cliffs.
- Do not sit, camp or light fires under a limestone overhang.

#### Parents:

- Explain the hazards of Hamelin Bay's limestone cliffs to your children.
- Supervise your children at all times; they must NOT be allowed to venture near any cliff areas.
- Observe warning signs.



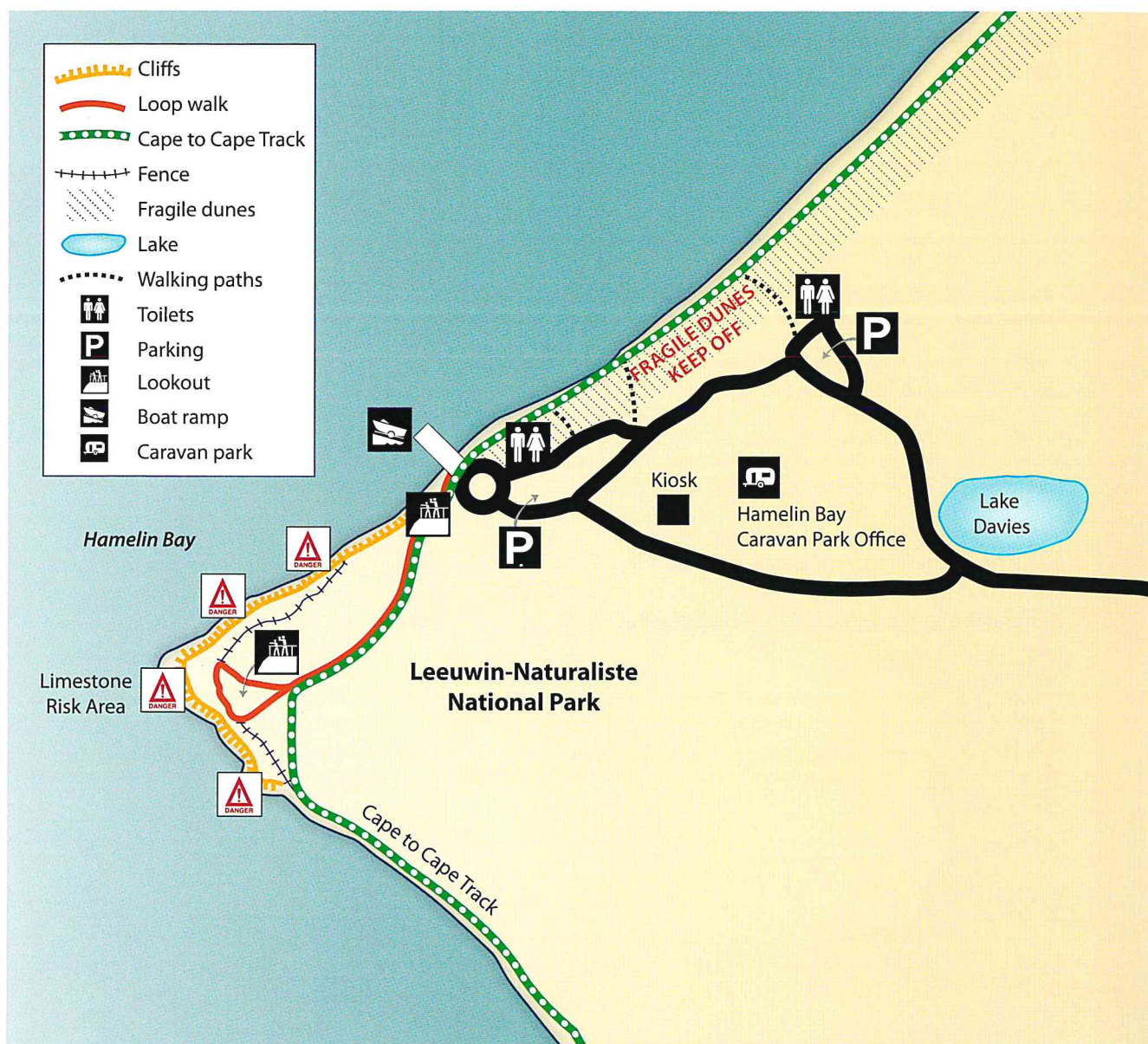




Department of Biodiversity,  
Conservation and Attractions



## Hamelin Bay Area



In an emergency call 000 (Triple Zero)  
Visit [emergency.wa.gov.au](https://www.emergency.wa.gov.au) for bushfire and  
smoke alert information.  
Visit [alerts.dbca.wa.gov.au](https://www.alerts.dbca.wa.gov.au) for park, road and site closures.

### For more information contact:

Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions  
Blackwood District office  
Phone: (08) 9752 5555  
Email: [blackwood@dbca.wa.gov.au](mailto:blackwood@dbca.wa.gov.au)  
Web: [dbca.wa.gov.au](https://www.dbca.wa.gov.au)

Photos - DBCA

This publication is available in alternative formats on request.  
Information current as at December 2019.

