

# Eight walkers dramatically cut off by huge cliff collapse on Isle of Wight but escape unhurt

- Police said to avoid Shanklin beach after the rock fall around 4.40pm on Saturday
- Two groups of people were walking in the area but no one was injured
- It was the second major cliff fall within a few weeks after another on April 7

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Eight people were rescued after they were cut off when walking on an Isle of Wight beach by a 'substantial cliff collapse' on Saturday afternoon.

Hampshire Police warned the public to avoid Shanklin beach after the rock fall around 4.40pm.

No one was injured but coastguard and lifeboat crews were called out to Luccombe Bay due to fears people were trapped under the rocks, [the BBC reported](#).



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**Hampshire Police warned the public to avoid Shanklin beach after the rock fall about 4.40pm on Saturday**

There were two groups of people walking in the area at the time of the cliff collapse at Appley Beach.

Stranded people were helped to safety by a lifeboat, Bembridge and Ventnor Coastguard said.

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They were approaching from the Luccombe area in the west. It wasn't safe for them to cross due to the cliff fall and the way the tide was coming in.

Ventnor Coastguard Rescue Team's James Potter told **Island Echo**: 'At the moment it's very unstable the cliff with the amount of rain that we've had over the winter.

'With those cliffs drying out now, those areas are becoming quite unstable.



**Ventnor Coastguard Rescue Team attended the scene and said the cliffs were unstable at the moment due to the wet winter**

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Ventnor Coastguard Rescue Team

@VentnorCRT



 CALLOUT 18.04.20 16:52 26/2020 

Tasked to a large cliff fall at Shanklin with persons possibly trapped. Search carried out with [@BembridgeCRT](#), [@iwfire](#), [@sandownlifeboat](#) and [@Bristow\\_Group](#) #R175 helicopter. 8 safely brought ashore by lifeboat. [@IOWightPolice](#), [@OFFICIALIOWAS](#)



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**Due to the cliff fall and the tide coming in it was unsafe to cross and eight people became stranded**

'The cliff is very dry, very crumbly now.'

The fire services, police and ambulances attended the scene as well as the Sandown and Shanklin Independent Lifeboat.

Senior maritime operations officer for HM Coastguard David Hurden said there wasn't anything suggesting the walkers were breaking lockdown rules.

He said: 'They were socially distancing from each other on a walk near to their homes.'





It was the second major cliff fall within a few weeks on Shanklin Beach after the coastguard rescue team were called on April 7

'We're thankful that no-one has been injured in the incident.'

Hampshire Police advised the public to avoid the area at all costs as access to the beach from Luccombe Bay is not safe as a result of the collapse.

It was the second major cliff fall within a few weeks at Luccombe after the Ventnor Coastguard Rescue Team were called to the area around 6.30pm on April 7.

People were told to avoid the area as the cliff was falling unexpectedly in multiple places.

There was another cliff fall on March 1 when the coastguard rescue teams were called at 2.30pm.

The unstable cliff began to collapse and dirt and debris fell onto the footpath and road below.

The Isle of Wight Police attended after a large crowd gathered in the area.

Isle of Wight artist and photographer Trudie Wilson was on the beach on February 18 when the cliff fell and a tree came tumbling down.

Read more:

**Isle of Wight cliff collapse: Eight rescued from beach by lifeboat - BBC News**  
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