

# **Devon Archaeological Society**

## **Policy for Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults**

### **1. Introduction**

1.1 The purpose of this policy is to ensure the safety of vulnerable adults who are attending Devon Archaeological Society (“DAS”) events, or working with DAS organisers at DAS events.

1.2 The policy has two parts: (1) how vulnerable adults should be treated while attending DAS events, and (2) how a DAS organiser should respond to a complaint made by a vulnerable adult at a DAS event.

1.3 The definition of a vulnerable adult is “a person aged 18 or over who has (i) a substantial learning or physical disability; (ii) a physical or mental illness or mental disorder, chronic or otherwise, including an addiction to alcohol or drugs; or (iii) a significant reduction in physical or mental capacity.”

1.4 The definition of abuse is the violation of an individual’s human rights. It can be a single act or repeated acts. It can be physical, sexual, or emotional. Vulnerable adults may also suffer additional types of abuse such as being manipulated financially or being discriminated against.

### **2. The policy**

2.1 Vulnerable adults attending DAS events must be treated with dignity and respect. They should be protected from physical, emotional, or sexual abuse while they are attending a DAS event.

2.2 If a vulnerable adult communicates to a DAS organiser at a DAS event that the vulnerable adult is unhappy with aspects of their care outside the event then the DAS organiser should attempt to obtain information about the vulnerable adult such as their name and where they live. The DAS organiser should communicate the conversation, and any details obtained, to the DAS Safeguarding Officer as soon as possible. The DAS Safeguarding Officer will know how to take the matter forward with the appropriate safeguarding agency.

2.3 If any situation with a vulnerable adult occurs at a DAS event then the DAS organiser should make and retain a written record of the circumstances of the situation.

2.4 If a vulnerable adult suffers an injury at a DAS event then the DAS organiser should carry out first aid with another adult present and/or summon an emergency agency.