

Media Release

Date: 19 June 2020

Islanders urged to take care after small rock fall at Petit Bot

Members of the public are asked to observe warning signs and stay away from the base of cliffs after a small rock fall was reported at Petit Bot on the west side of the bay, as a result of recent heavy rain.

Due to an almost vertical fault in the rockface there is an increased level of risk of further rock falls.

The cliffs around all the bays on the south coast are regularly inspected by engineers. Several cliff faces are heavily netted to prevent rock falls and worked on by contractors to remove small flakes and loose stones caused by weathering. Even with these precautionary measures it is not possible to entirely prevent the risk of rock falls and so care must also be taken by individuals when accessing these areas.

Cliff faces naturally weather over the years through wind, rain and changing temperatures, which increases the risk of rock falls. The growth of vegetation, or small earth tremors that we do not feel, can also loosen material which can lead to landslips.

Soft cliffs of loose clays and small stones, such as those at Fermain, Moulin Huet, Petit Bot and Portelet, can easily lose material during or after periods of heavy rain which accelerates this natural weathering process.

Agriculture, Countryside & Land Management Services (ACLMS) is asking people visiting the bays between Fermain and Portelet to take care as they are prone to these rock and soft cliff falls. Warning signage in the area must be observed and it is not advisable to sit or play near the base of cliffs because of the risk of severe injury in the event of a rock fall or landslide.

Ends