

# Site Hazard Card

## Holt Hall Field Centre

### A-Level Ecology Projects

#### Location

Holt Hall Estate

#### Risks

The risks involved will vary with each project. For Aquatic, Sand Dune, Saltmarsh, Rocky Shore, Invertebrate and Woodland projects please see the appropriate risk assessments.

This risk assessment is only for projects that take place on the Holt Hall Estate and does not include lake hazards.

- Problems due to inadequate supervision.
- Injuries from incorrect use of ranging poles, quadrats, soil augers and other equipment.
- Poisoning and fire risk from lab chemicals.
- Incorrect use of Bunsen Burners.
- Exposure to Tetanus.
- Injuries as a result of walking around woodland.
- Allergic reaction to bites, stings or nuts.
- Poisoning by plants.

#### Safety Measures

- All students must listen to safety instructions.
- Staff: student ratio should be 1:15+1 for years 7-13.

#### Field work Equipment

- Do not use ranging poles as high jump poles or put any weight on them as they will bend or break.
- Ranging poles must be carried vertically with the point downwards.
- Do not run or jump when carrying a ranging pole.
- Quadrats must not be carried around neck or slung around body as this could result in strangulation.
- Soil Augers must be carried vertically with the point downwards. Students must not run or jump when carrying a soil auger.
- Students should take extra care when using and transporting data loggers and sensors.
- Barium Sulphate is low risk but should not be breathed in (CLEAPSS Hazcard 010).
- Universal indicator solution is flammable and poisonous. No source of ignition should be present in the lab. Students should be told how to use indicator solution safely. If indicator solution gets onto skin it should be washed off. Students must wear safety glasses when using universal indicator solution (CLEAPSS Hazcard 032).

- Universal indicator solution and Barium Sulphate should only be accessible to students when a member of Holt Hall teaching staff is present.
- Sodium Hydroxide (CLEAPSS Hazcard 091) and Sulphuric Acid (CLEAPSS Hazcard 098) are highly corrosive. Extreme care must be taken when using these chemicals. Safety **goggles** must be worn at all times. In the event of Sodium Hydroxide solution being splashed in eyes, the eye must be flooded with water until a first-aider arrives. The student must be sent to hospital and the eye continuously irrigated throughout the journey. In the event of Sulphuric Acid being splashed in eyes, the eye must be flooded for 10 minutes and medical attention sought. There is a designated eye wash station at the far side of the outdoor laboratory.
- Glass Test Tubes are fragile and present a potential cut and chemical contamination hazard. They must always be either in a hand or a test tube rack, never laid on a desk. Bungs must not be pushed into them too hard as this can break the top, potentially cutting the student with glass. Once they contain chemicals students under 15 may not wash them up, as they are easily broken. Students over 15 may wash them up carefully and put the soil in the bin, not down the sink.
- Students may be exposed to the tetanus virus when handling soil. Cuts on hands must be covered with a plaster. Students who are allergic to plasters may wear a glove but feeling the texture of soil may be an important part of the project so gloves are not recommended unless absolutely necessary. Hands must be washed at the end of the activity. Most students will have been vaccinated against tetanus but if a student becomes ill within a few days of a Holt Hall visit, the doctor must be told that the student has been in close contact with soil.
- Bunsen burners may only be used under the supervision of Holt Hall Teaching staff. When burning soil, crucible lids must be kept on, safety glasses worn and the lab must be well ventilated.
- Care must be taken when carrying and using all equipment.

### **General issues**

- Students must carry their asthma medication with them.
- Diabetics must have food with them.
- Centre staff should check the nominal roll for any allergies or medical conditions and make arrangements as necessary.
- Students must be informed of what to do in the event of an accident or injury.
- Some plants on the estate are poisonous. Students may not eat any part of any plant (or animal!) from the estate.
- Students may not climb the trees.
- Students must take care walking around the woods in case of slips, trips and falls, cuts and bruises and twigs in eyes.

Reviewed by S Woodhouse  
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