

# **Risk Assessment**

## **Holt Hall Field Study Centre**

### **On The Rocks/Rocks Rock!**

#### **Location**

West Runton Beach to the east of the slipway

#### **Risks**

The following risks are applicable to anyone taking part in this activity.

- Lost or abducted young people
- Drowning or being swept out to sea, immersion
- Heat exhaustion, heat stroke and sun burn
- Injuries caused from slipping on wet rocks and picking up heavy rocks
- Stings and injuries from rocky shore animals
- Minibus travel
- Car park as top of slipway – traffic and cliff edge hazard
- Damage to the environment

#### **Control Measures**

##### **Lost young people, abduction, drowning or being swept out to sea, immersion**

- Ensure appropriate ratio of staff:students.
- Young people must stay behind the leader on the way down the slope towards the beach.
- Holt Hall and school staff must carry the young people's health and safety record sheet and nominal roll with contact and health information.
- Tide times and approximate heights must be known and checked by the member of Holt Hall staff leading the activity.
- Weather conditions must be taken into account especially in relation to tide and wave height.
- Young people must be under control and not be allowed to run away from the leader across the beach.
- Young people must not go into the sea.
- The leader must have a whistle and the young people must always be close enough to hear it and be alerted to the leader's instructions..
- The leader must conduct frequent head counts.
- The leader must have an overview of all the young people at all times.
- Young people must not go close to where the waves begin unless accompanied by an adult and then only when the sea is calm. They must stay within boundaries designated by members of staff.

- The leader and other staff must wear luminous jackets to help the young people to locate them quickly and easily. There can be many other groups of young people and members of the public on the beach.
- Young people may not use the public toilets or cafe unless accompanied by a member of staff.
- In the event of a suspected lost child follow the Centre's Lost Children Procedure.

### **Cliff fall**

- No young people may go to the cliff side of the sloping revetment on the beach.
- Hard hats must be worn if young people are looking at the cliff to the east of the slipway.
- Holt Hall staff must assess the chance of cliff collapse and not take young people near the base of the cliff after rain or if it is very steep or overhanging.
- Young people must be kept under close control in the car park, as there is a traffic hazard and a cliff edge hazard.
- No young people may go to the seaward end of the car park.
- All young people must stay near their minibus when in the car park and use the slipway to access the beach.

### **Hypothermia, heat exhaustion, heat stroke and sunburn**

- See general risk assessment

### **Slipping on wet rocks and heavy rocks**

- Young people must be reminded to walk at all times when on the rocky shore – the rocks are both sharp and slippery.
- Young people may not pick up large rocks, as there is a significant risk of them being dropped onto feet.

### **Stings, poisoning and injuries by rocky shore animals**

- Fish may not be handled as some species have spines that give a very painful sting.
- As part of 'On The Rocks' young people should be shown how to pick up a shore crab. Velvet swimming crabs must not be picked up as they are more aggressive than Shore Crabs. Velvet Swimming crabs have red eyes, purple legs and live on the lower shore. They are only found very rarely at West Runton, usually on the lowest tides.
- Young people should avoid touching sea anemones as these sting. While this will not result in a serious reaction in the majority of cases it could cause a reaction if a young person has an allergic reaction

### **Minibus travel**

- See general risk assessment

### **Car park at to of slipway**

- Young people must be kept under close control in the car park.

### **Damage to the environment**

- Young people may not dig into the 'Cromer Freshwater Beds' at the base of the cliff. They are a designated site of special scientific interest.
- The rock pools at this site are visited by a large number of school children each year. Young people should be made aware of the fragile nature of the habitat and the importance of looking after it. In particular, instruct them to lift rocks carefully and return them exactly as they found them. Seaweeds, limpets etc. should not be pulled off the rocks.

Reviewed by S Woodhouse

Date: 31.08.06

Reviewed by J Mumford-Smith

Date: 12.02.08

Reviewed by S Woodhouse

Date: 25.02.08

Reviewed by J Dennis

Date: 21.12.10

Reviewed by S Woodhouse

Date: 20.01.11