

# Site Hazard Card

## Holt Hall Field Study Centre

### Sand Dune Ecology

#### Location

Holkham, Wells, Blakeney Point

#### Risks

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

- Problems due to inadequate supervision.
- Lost students
- Abducted students
- Drowning or being swept out to sea
- Injury caused by marram grass
- Problems caused by improper use of field work equipment
- Immersion or exposure leading to hypothermia
- Heat stroke and sun burn
- Minibus travel.
- Damage to the environment

#### Safety Measures

- Staff: student ratio must be at least 1:6+1 for year 3 and 1:15+1 for years 4-6, not including Holt Hall Staff but wherever possible use a ratio of 1:10 +1 for years 4-6. Staff: student ratio must be 1:15+1 for years 7-13.

#### Lost students, abduction, drowning or being swept out to sea, immersion

- Tide times and approximate heights must be known.
- Students may not walk on the sand flats or go out to the yellow dunes at Wells or Holkham within three hours of a rising high tide.
- Students must leave the sand flats at least three hours before high tide.
- Students must be under control and not be allowed to run away from the leader across the beach.
- The leader must have a whistle and the students must always be close enough to hear it and be alerted to the orders of the leader.
- The leader must frequently count the students to ensure that they are all accounted for.
- The leader must have an overview of all the students at all times.

#### Marram Grass

- Marram grass has very sharp tips and can cause injury. Students must be made aware of the danger especially to eyes when crouching amongst marram or bending forward to look at something.

## **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.
- In case of thunder and lightning, do not touch metal ranging poles. Move away from them and crouch down low if in an exposed area such as an open beach.
- Point frame quadrats must be carried in a box to and from the fieldwork site. Students must take care when using them.
- Area quadrats must be folded when walking to and from fieldwork sites. They may not be slung around the neck or body in case of strangulation.
- Any lost or broken equipment must be paid for.

## **Hypothermia**

- Students must be dressed suitably for the weather conditions. It is often much colder on the coast than at the hall so staff must check that students have enough on including something wind and waterproof and a warm hat or hood if necessary.
- In case of immersion, or hypothermia blankets must be kept in the minibus and an exposure blanket in the first aid kit. If necessary students may be returned to Holt Hall, be taken to accident and emergency at Cromer Hospital or an ambulance may be called, depending on the severity of the incident.

## **Heat stroke and sunburn**

- Students must be dressed suitably for the conditions and use sun block if appropriate. Hats may be advisable.

## **Minibus travel**

- Students must follow all minibus rules i.e. Seatbelts must be worn; do not distract the driver; no eating; do not remove seatbelt or attempt to get off until told to do so.
- Minibuses are regularly checked and maintained.

## **General health issues**

- The leader must carry a first aid kit which contains fresh water, cleansing wipes and plasters so that minor wounds can be dealt with without removing a student and a member of staff back to the minibus.
- Diabetics must have food with them.
- Students must carry their asthma medication with them.
- Holt Hall and school staff must be made aware of any allergies to nuts, insect bites and stings etc.
- **Students must work to the area east of Lady Anne's Drive in Holkham as agreed with English Nature.**

### **Damage to the environment**

- All sites used are nature reserves and are fragile environments easily damaged by trampling. Care must be taken to damage field work sites as little as possible.
- Permission must always be sought from English Nature before taking a group to do fieldwork. Any requests such as restrictions on available working areas must be complied with to protect the environment from over use and trampling.
- Students must use the boardwalks at Blakeney point wherever possible to reduce the impact of trampling on the delicate dune surface.
- Soil augers must not be used in sand dunes as they cause too much damage to soil structure.
- Students must not enter fenced areas or do anything that may disturb nesting birds.

### **Emergency numbers**

- Ambulance, Police: 999
- Cromer Hospital: 01263 513571
- Holt Surgery: 01263 712461
- Holt Hall: 01263 713117

### **Telephone locations in an emergency**

- If possible a mobile phone should be taken on this activity.

#### **Holkham**

- Emergency phone (999 only) at end of Lady Anne's Drive by the boardwalk that leads to the beach.
- Public phone on the main coast road near Holkham pottery.

#### **Wells**

- Public telephone in the Beach Road car park next to the café.

#### **Blakeney Point**

- Emergency phone (999 only) at lifeboat station on the point.
- Visitor centre on the quay.
- Café at Cley beach car park (When the café is open. The café is 4 miles from the end of the Point.