

Assessment of risk

SALTMARSH WORK

Assessment undertaken (date) _____
 Signed _____
 Assessment Review _____

Hazard	Who might be harmed?	Existing controls	Further action necessary
<p>MAIN HAZARDS</p> <p>Lack of detailed knowledge of a specific site.</p> <p>Lack of knowledge about general and site specific tide/weather states and how these influence site conditions.</p> <p>Lack of specific knowledge of behaviour of individuals in group: will they do as advised / told?</p> <p>SPECIFIC SAFETY POINTS</p> <p>a. Height of marsh in relation to a given daily tide regime.</p> <p>b. Concealed creeks.</p>	<p>All</p> <p>All</p> <p>Individuals</p> <p>All</p> <p>Those running in particular</p>	<p>Only work in saltmarsh areas thoroughly reconnoitred, risk assessed and checked with Site Manager.</p> <p>Always check tide times, weather forecast and current conditions and consider implications on site and with specific activity/duration/group in mind. Avoid marsh on marsh tides and in bad weather. Dress/cover up appropriately.</p> <p>Check with visiting teacher in charge about any individual who might be difficult. Set clear behavioural guidelines and establish whistle recall lines of communication. Delimit site working boundaries precisely.</p> <p>H, M, L marsh assessment against tide/weather should determine if site is accessible.</p> <p>Establish position of these and point out on site hazards and location. No running policy. First aider and kit at all times.</p>	

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<p>c. Undermined creeks (eroding banks often hidden by overhanging vegetation) Falling into soft mud</p> <p>d. In these places (c) if the tide is rising or falling fast deep, fast flowing water may pose additional hazard. Sluices</p> <p>e. Depth of mud.</p> <p>f. Sand/emerging springs 'sinking sands'.</p> <p>Slipping over in mud.</p> <p>g. Carrying and use of field equipment, ranging poles, quads (javelins and hoopla potential). Quads into deep mud - potential problem.</p> <p>Potentially harmful seaborne litter/debris eg light bulbs, flares, rusty tins, oil, chemical drums.</p>	<p>All</p> <p>All</p> <p>All</p> <p>All</p> <p>All</p>	<p>Point out hazard to all, where it exists. Avoid working in these areas where possible unaccompanied by staff. Carry safety line to assist if necessary with person stuck in mud/fallen in creek. Avoid being by edge at bank full conditions Avoid working near sluices</p> <p>Avoid working in areas where if accidentally/deliberately entered, anyone would be unable to extricate themselves. If not possible give strong verbal warnings. General rule: no entering mudflats, creeks, salt pans unless specifically told to.</p> <p>Do not work in any area where these are identified.</p> <p>Verbal warning given? First Aider/ First aid kit present.</p> <p>Instruction into correct carrying (vertical) and use of equipment. Not throwing quads.</p> <p>Keep an eye out and issue warnings as necessary given the site's propensity for such hazards.</p>	<p>Identify nearest telephone: Whelk house complex and/or houses nearby.</p>

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<p>Gaining access down sea walls</p> <p>STUDENT PROJECTS</p> <p>Very small groups/individuals working on projects supervised but not permanently accompanied by a teacher.</p> <p>Journey to marsh on foot/minibus.</p>	<p>All</p> <p>All undertaking project work</p>	<p>Verbal warning/first aid avoid if possible especially if wet.</p> <p>Safety points considered as above in relation to work/students/time/tide/weather.</p> <p>Do not permit sole working on saltmarsh</p> <p>Care with road crossing and group movement. Highway Code Enforcement of minibus rules.</p>	<p>If students not had safety briefing and work on the site or worked saltmarsh before: this must be systematically given and local hazard shown.</p> <p>Set definite size of group permitted to work on marsh unless accompanied by responsible supervisor all the time. Min. group size of 3.</p> <p>Nearest telephone to be advised and details of what to do if help is required given.</p> <p>Overall review of student projects and their supervision required across all habitats.</p> <p>Aware of tensions of not 'over organising' VI formers by OTT road crossing, Highway Code procedures: brings about its own hazards. General reminder not a bad idea.</p>