

Sample Field Study Trip for GCSE Geography Students

Location: East Head

High Tide: 1518 4.3m

Group: GCSE

Focus: Coastal processes

Notes: CHC teacher to provide: risk assessment, session plan, first aid kit, throwline, mobile phone. CHC to provide masters for worksheets and equipment for investigation. School to provide qualified first aider. School to ensure pupils arrive with suitable clothing for muddy/ sunny/cold/wet environment. School staff and CHC teacher to lead.

10.00 am: Welcome, introduction and background to East Head issues by CHC teacher.

Location, designations and importance, how it was formed – longshore drift, history – effect of coastal sea defences, breaches, regeneration, rock berm, 2004 breach, management strategies, differing points of view of interested bodies and recent ‘repairs’.

10.20 am: Look at existing sea defences and eroding sand dunes followed by walk around the spit.

Purposes of hard and soft sea defences. Formation of sand dunes and function of Marram Grass.

11.30 am: Practical work and data collection

Group A: Study the movement of beach sediment to demonstrate the process of longshore drift by painting stones and measuring distance and speed of movement. Beach pebble survey. Field sketch of groynes and sediment distribution.

Group B: Line transects at several predetermined points along the eroding face of the dunes to show differences between erosion and deposition.

12.30 pm: Lunch

1 pm: Continuation of practical work.

2.30 pm: Departure