

Sample Field Study Trip for GCSE Biology Students

Location: East Head

High Tide: 1518 4.3m

Group: GCSE

Focus: Ecology of Sand Dunes

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 of erosion/deposition, management issues, important features of local sand dune habitat and issues of protection and conservation.

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

Noting particularly areas of erosion, formation of sand dunes, adaptations of Marram Grass and other xerophytes, area of vegetated shingle and associated plants, saltmarsh and areas managed for conservation.

11.30 am: Practical work and data collection

Line transect across a section of the dunes and into saltmarsh, recording abiotic factors and using quadrats to record percentage cover of organic and inorganic ground cover.

12.30 pm: Lunch

1 pm: Continuation of practical work.

2.30 pm: Departure