

# Hazard identification for Stodmarsh National Nature Reserve

This hazard identification document is intended to help teachers/group leaders assess and manage the risks associated with their visit to the site. This is not an exhaustive list and we strongly recommend teachers/group leaders visit the reserve prior to taking groups, for familiarisation and to assist with making their own risk assessments.

Further useful information and guidance on health and safety for school trips is available on [teachernet.gov.uk](http://teachernet.gov.uk)

## **Stodmarsh National Nature Reserve contains the following hazards:**

- A busy road between the Grove Ferry car park and the reserve entrance, with a hedge that reduces visibility and therefore appropriate care needs to be taken.
- Marshy areas – it is advised teachers/group leaders ensure children keep to the paths and areas designated for activities in the education pack.
- Uneven ground – it is advised teachers/group leaders keep to the paths and areas designated for the set activities, whilst fully appreciating the general use of the site during the visit with regard to the needs of the children.
- Areas of deep water, which have the potential to be contaminated by Weil's disease. It is advised that teachers/group leaders carry antibacterial wipes for children to properly clean their hands and are aware of the flu-like symptoms of Weil's disease. Also all pond dipping should be undertaken from the pond dipping platform with a strong adult swimmer supervising. Teachers/group leaders should check the Lifebuoy is on site (next to platform).
- An open and exposed vista and therefore it is recommended teachers/group leaders consider issues of hypothermia and heat exposure.

- Public access with dog users – it is advised teachers/group leaders supervise the children at all times and consider issues of animal faeces and litter.
- Inedible vegetation such as fungi and berries. It is advised that children be warned not to eat anything found on the site and keep their hands away from their mouths.

Please remember to always carry a first aid kit and it is advisable to have a trained first aider present throughout your visit.

## **Further Information**

Accident and Emergency  
Emergency Services Tel: 999

Kent & Canterbury Hospital (Minor Injuries)  
Ethelbert Road,  
Canterbury, CT1 3NG.  
Tel: 01227 766877.

William Harvey Hospital,  
Kennington Road,  
Willesborough,  
Kent,  
TN24 0LZ.  
Tel: 01233 633331.

## **Grid References for Car parks**

- Grove Ferry Car Park: TR235 629
- Stodmarsh Car Park: TR219 609