Fieldwork guidance for Teachers, Lecturers or Group Leaders

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# Introduction

Fieldwork is a great way to understand peatland ecosystems through first-hand experience.

Practical data collection in peatlands can be carried out to fulfil the requirements for fieldwork methodology within your chosen specification and data collected can be used for graphical and statistical analysis.

## Broads Authority Education Team

This resource is designed to help you organise and run your own fieldtrip, but you might wish to make use of theBroads Authority Education Team who can run the course with you. Contact us through www.broads-authority.gov.uk.

## Learning outdoors

Whether you are running the fieldwork yourself or with the help of the Broads Authority you must ensure that you and your students are working safely at all times, and in line with your organisation’s guidance and rules. Best practice advice can be found on the Council for Learning Outside the Classroom website. The RGS has a free to use fieldwork planning toolkit that will guide you through all stages of planning a fieldtrip with your group, and further guidance can be found on the Department of Education website.

Peatlands within the Broads are some of our most beautiful landscapes but also some of our most remote, wet, and ecologically sensitive.

You should always check with the landowner before carrying out fieldwork with your group, they may be able to give you helpful advice and be a source of local knowledge that will add to your students’ experience. For help finding suitable fieldwork sites please contact the Broads Authority through our website.

# Equipment

This is a suggested kit list, items with a \* can be provided by the Broads Authority if we are running the fieldwork with you or may be available to borrow subject to availability.

## General equipment

Suitable clothing for all participants – see student guidance document

Emergency contact numbers

A spare set of clothing inc. waterproofs in case a participant gets soaked

Handwipes/paper towels

GPS/Site map

## Experiment specific equipment

### Peat depth

Peat Auger \* - one per group

Measuring tapes \* - 1x 10m tapes per group

Camera – per group – students can use phones for this task

### Vegetation survey

0.5 x 0.5m 25square Gridded Quadrat \*

Plant ID sheets \*

Measuring tapes \* - 2x 10m per group

### Temperatures

Soil temperature probe

Air thermometer

### Soil Moisture in the field

Measuring cylinders – with funnels

### Soil pH and, Nitrate and phosphate testing

Nitrate and phosphate testing kits or testing strips \*

Soil pH testing equipment (kit or probe)

# Risk assessment

Please make use your own risk assessment forms, if you need assistance with identifying the risks associated with learning outdoors and the Broads specifically our education team may be able to help.