



Medical and Evacuation Procedures

Knepp 2026

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Introduction

Medical screening

As with all expeditions careful planning is essential to ensure that all individuals enjoy a safe successful field course. Some members of the course team (including all volunteers and staff) may have significant pre-existing health problems or disabilities, which in the field, could potentially lead to problems.

Medical questionnaire - All participants will be required to enter their medical details onto the Operation Wallacea data portal. Details of how to log on are sent out upon receiving the booking from the participant. The data is stored securely and is initially only available to certain Operation Wallacea staff members, and, for groups of school students, the teacher leading the group.

Screening - All medical forms are assessed by Operation Wallacea. We may seek to contact the participant to gather further information, which we would then enter on to the portal. Following the initial contact, the details are then passed to the relevant on-site staff. First aid trained staff are able to assist an injured or sick person in the first minutes after an illness or injury occurs, but they are not medical professionals. First aid trained staff should determine when external medical treatment is required.

Roles in the event of an Emergency

Carefully planned evacuation protocols are in place. All staff will have training on the evacuation procedures and protocols.

Once a major incident leading to an evacuation is identified, the Project Manager will take overall control and will decide the level of emergency evacuation required for the patient. These are classified as either: Medium Priority, High Priority or Emergency.

Medium Priority – Cases in which the patient is in no immediate danger but the onsite facilities are unable to cope were their condition to deteriorate. An example of this would be dehydration due to sickness. This requires the patient to be moved as quickly as possible to the nearest appropriate suitable facilities.

High Priority – Cases where the patient's health is at risk if immediate action is not taken. An example of this is a broken bone. This requires transportation, via specially arranged vehicles, to medical facilities available.

Emergency Priority – Cases requiring the fastest possible transfer via ambulance.

Medical Facilities in Country

Camps

There are first aid trained staff on site at Knepp Estate. Staff are familiar with the local environment including risks and hazards, and are able to assess first aid situations, treat as necessary in the field, and determine the need for further specialist medical attention.

Injuries/illnesses that cannot be treated in field will be transported to medical facilities in Horsham (20 min) or Worthing (30 min). There are also multiple other hospitals within an hour of the site which may respond via the emergency services.

Facilities in Horsham

Suitable for low, medium, and high priority evacuations from field courses at Knepp.

Address

Hurst Road
Horsham
West Sussex
RH12 2DR

Telephone

(01403) 227000

Small Hospital providing A&E and assessment facilities.

Walk in centre: open Mon to Fri 9.00 to 5pm.

Facilities in Worthing

Suitable for low, medium, high and emergency priority evacuations from field courses at Knepp.

Address

Lyndhurst Rd
Worthing
West Sussex
BN11 2DH

Telephone

[\(01903\) 205111](tel:01903205111)

Medium sized hospital with all essential requirements, provides acute services ranging from in-hospital care to specialist surgical procedures. The Accident and Emergency Department is available 24 hours seven days a week.

Note: If emergency services are called they may choose to use a number of other hospitals in the area. Knepp is very well placed for medical facilities and so there are an additional ten hospitals available under an hour from the estate.

Communications

The field course site at Knepp Estate has relatively reliable mobile phone signal on all UK networks which can be used for both routine and emergency communications. This is in some locations patchy on some networks, so ensuring all volunteers save the Project Leader's mobile number in their phones is essential in case the Survey Leader is unable to reach them. Volunteers are informed of this at the start of the project.

Transfers

All vehicle transfers have mobile phones with the drivers.

Evacuations from Various Field Sites

Camps and survey sites in the Knepp Estate

Survey sites within the Estate are accessible by vehicle and an injured/ill patient can be transferred easily to the main camp area, or to nearby medical facilities if necessary. Evacuation by car to Horsham is 20min, or to Worthing in 30 min. In case of urgent attention required the ambulance service will be called. The Project Manager is also part of the Knepp Emergency Group, who can support with evacuations from site.

Reporting and Logging

During evacuations it is crucial that a log is kept by the Course Manager detailing times, personnel involved and all relevant details of each step of the evacuation process.

A full safety assessment must be carried-out after all evacuations and if a similar incident is likely all activities must be stopped until the situation has been rectified.

Mass Evacuations and Disaster Management

The need for large scale evacuation from Knepp is extremely low. If evacuation should be required there is easy access to a number of nearby towns with accommodation options available. The Knepp itself also has a number of large buildings on site.