



# **Medical and Evacuation Procedures**

**Knepp 2024**



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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 and Knepp Estate. We may seek to contact the participant to gather further information, which they would then enter on to the portal. Following the initial screening, 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 are able to 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 Course 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  
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 reliable mobile phone signal on all UK networks which can be used for both routine and emergency communications.

## **Transfers**

All bus and 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.

## **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.