



**Spurn National Nature Reserve** is a unique coastal environment, where students can study some amazing natural, heritage and landscape wonders to inspire them. The peninsula is 3.5 miles long, at the mouth of the Humber Estuary and comprises sand dunes, beaches and salt marsh. One of the natural wonders of Britain. It has had a rich natural and social history and we look at the three stories of Spurn; Natural heritage, Maritime heritage and Defence heritage in our activities.

### Education programme

Our formal education programme is aimed at all ages who can study the diverse habitats, the wildlife found here and the effects of the sea (and people) on this fragile finger of land. We look at the way people have tried to defend against coastal change and how we can adapt in the future. We encourage and inspire young people to understand the need to change behaviours and look after their environment.

Activities are linked to the needs of schools and the National Curriculum, plus they can be adapted to the specific requirements of each visit.

There are so many opportunities to study at Spurn, from food chains and marine life to Spurn's role in both World Wars, that we can devise a visit tailored to your specific requirements.

## Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 Activities

### Waves of Waste

**Working scientifically:** Everyday materials; Living things and their habitats.

Sadly, litter is now a common sight on our beaches with Waves of Waste washing up each day. As we take a walk along the shore, for each item of litter we find we will ask the following questions: What is it? Where does it come from? How does it affect marine wildlife?

**Success criteria includes:** Gathering and recording data to help in answering questions; reporting and presenting findings; comparing and grouping a variety of everyday materials by their simple properties; Recognising environments can be changed by humans and this can pose dangers to living things.

### Seashore detective

**Working scientifically:** Plants; animals, including humans; living things and their habitats; everyday materials; rocks.

The strandline is a treasure trove of fascinating finds. As seashore detectives we'll look for clues as to what lurks in the mysterious offshore waters around Spurn.

**Success criteria:** Using observations and ideas to suggest answers to questions; Identifying and naming a variety of common seaweeds; Identifying and naming a variety of common seashore animals; Exploring and comparing the differences between things that are alive, dead and things that have never been alive; Identifying and naming a variety of different materials; Describing how fossils are formed.

### Natural art

**Everyday materials;** plants; animals, including humans; Rocks; Art and Design.

The seashore is an artist's dream, full of interesting materials from which to create a masterpiece. The beauty is that these works will only last as long as the tide and sea allow. Pupils will get the chance to let their imagination run wild.

**Success criteria:** identifying and naming a variety of common seashore animals; identifying and naming a variety of different materials; experimenting with a wide range of art and design techniques using colour, pattern, texture, line, shape, form and space.

### Spurn lighthouse 'A Victorian wonder!'

Spurn Lighthouse offers an opportunity to study Victorian architecture and technology. (This is aimed at small groups of up to 18 pupils as a trip on the Unimog is required).

Here we look at the social history and maritime heritage of Spurn and step back in time. From coastguards, lighthouse keepers and lifeboat crews to modern methods of navigation and sea safety. What was it like to be a lighthouse keeper or coast guard on this remote place?

**Success criteria:** comparing today with the past; using historical sources; research; Examining how people lived in the past; making connections between their locality and other places. Keeping safe at the seaside.



## Activities for Key Stage 3, 4 and A-Level

Secondary and higher education students can collect data, study the processes of change and examine the habitats found on this unique site. We discuss how important it is to look after and manage the nature reserve and what ecological services it provides. Students can test hypotheses and investigate the influence of coastal defences on the peninsula.

All activities can be tailored to the requirements of each group and can include science, geography, history, art, English and citizenship as the main focus. The lighthouse provides an excellent Victorian architecture/technology study.

### Conflict on the coast (Geography/Citizenship/ English)

A study of the pressures on coastal environments and a need to balance tourism and development with conservation/landscape management. Here we look at how people approach the challenge of managing a changing coastline into the future.

### Dunes and beaches study (Geography/Biology)

Here we test a hypothesis concerning the beach profiles and species present. We use direct data collection and mapping techniques to further the understanding of natural features. For smaller groups we offer the use of our ex-army 4x4 truck (Unimog) which allows easy access to the point and more time on the reserve. This is an excellent choice for groups of up to 20 students and means that there is the added thrill of travelling in an ex-army vehicle.



## Costs

Full day: £7 (+VAT) per student. Minimum £210 + VAT, based on 30 students (or use of the Unimog for up to 20 students).

Half day: £6 (+VAT) per student. Minimum charge £180 (+VAT).

## Contact

Spurn is a great location and will give your students an exciting experience of the coastal/estuarine environment and its heritage.

For further details and to book a visit please contact Andy Mason (Spurn Heritage Officer)

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