Friends of Horsey Seals

The Role and Responsibilities of the Seal Warden

Role:

• Seal wardens are on site to welcome and advise members of the public.
• To interact with visitors and answer their questions about the seals and the rookery.
• To help reduce disturbance to the seal rookery at Horsey.
• To advise visitors of the best routes to take to view the rookery without disturbing the seals, and minimising environmental damage to the dunes.
• To be aware of health and safety issues and never to endanger yourself, fellow wardens or visitors.
• To explain the role of the seal warden and Friends of Horsey Seals, and to invite visitors to become members of FoHS.

At busy times, full wardening of the dunes is necessary to protect the colony and to interact with and educate as many visitors as possible.

Responsibilities:

• To undertake at least six wardens duties in each pupping season.
• If you cannot make a shift it is essential that you contact us as soon as possible so that full cover can be maintained. You can do this by emailing wardens@friendsofhorseyseals.co.uk.
• If prevented at short notice (less than 48 hours before start of shift) from carrying out your duty (eg, illness, accident or home emergency) please phone 01493 748516.
• Seal wardens should conduct themselves in a professional manner at all times while on duty.
• You must be at your post to start duty at your allotted time.
• Wear clothing appropriate to the season and prevailing weather conditions.
• FoHS provides each warden with a Hi Viz vest and ID card, which must be worn whenever you are on duty. These remain the property of FoHS and must be returned if you cease to be a warden.
• Be responsible for your own safety. Use the buddy system.
• If a visitor is uncooperative or aggressive, back off politely. Never inflame a situation.
• Keep conversations with other wardens short when there are visitors to attend to.
• Allow for possible delays in reaching and entering the site.
• Only use the wardens’ permitted parking area when on duty.
• Access the Wardens’ Forum on a regular basis to update yourself on news, wardening issues and events,
• Use the forum to log problems relating to the site or information that might help other wardens.

Your behaviour on site reflects on all wardens and we thank you for agreeing to these guidelines.

The committee will ask any warden that does not comply with them to resign.

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