

## 1.1 Water table depth

### 1.1.1 Background

The aim of this survey is to monitor water table depth in dune slacks (seasonal wetlands) within the sand dune system. Water table depth influences the type and health of dune slack vegetation and on species like natterjack toads and many insects that also use dune slacks or damp sand.

### 1.1.2 Method

#### *When and where to survey*

Water levels should be measured at least once per month at preselected dipwell locations.

#### *Equipment*

Make sure you take with you:

- Handheld GPS unit
- (Mobile phone app – dipwell locations downloaded beforehand)
- Water-level measuring device (see notes)
- Water level recording form
- Camera

#### *Navigating to the dipwell locations*

- a) Using your handheld GPS (and mobile phone app), navigate to each dipwell. The grid reference can be found on the description form for dipwell locations, or described on the app.

#### *What to record*

- a) If there is a cap on the dipwell, unscrew it or prise it off (depending on the type)
- b) If there is a datalogger suspended on a wire, carefully pull it out (When you have finished measuring the water level, slowly lower the logger back down the dipwell. DON'T drop it as this can cause the logger to malfunction).
- c) Using an appropriate water-level measuring device, measure from the top of the dipwell down to the water level.
- d) Record the value to the nearest cm. If the slack is flooded and the water level is above the dipwell, again measure to the top of the dipwell, but record this as a negative number. Note down the water level on the form, or on the app.
- e) Take a photograph of the dipwell, aligning it to the photograph on the dipwell information sheet, or on the app.