Beeston Castle and Woodland Park, Cheshire
Risk Assessment for Discovery Visit Session

Activity: Fortress Castle, Key Stages 1-2
Duration: 75 minutes
Created: 1 September 2025
Review date: 1 September 2026
Prepared by: Learning and Participation Officer

Description and Notes
This risk assessment covers the Fortress Castle Discovery Visit from when the group meet the facilitator, to the time when the session ends. It does not cover the walk from the coach/car park to the site or any aspect of your visit outside of the Discovery Visit. This information can be found in the Hazard Information on our [Schools page](#).

Hazard	Who is at risk?	Control measures	Risk after controls C x L = R		
Uneven paths and ground surface with low stone foundations.	Leaders, students, Volunteers, EH staff	Students will be advised of this hazard prior to beginning the session and must be supervised at all times by accompanying leaders. Verbal warnings of particular hazards will be given during the session and movement on site will follow designated paths wherever possible. Running on site will not be permitted and extra care will be taken in wet and/or windy weather. Facilitators will have necessary training to identify risk and inform education groups of potential hazards.	2	1	2
High walls and sheer drops.	Leaders, students, Volunteers, EH staff	Students and adults will be reminded to keep back from unguarded drops. Climbing on walls and over barriers will not be permitted. Leaders and facilitators will monitor throughout the session.	3	1	3
Steep paths, steps and stairs.	Leaders, students, Volunteers, EH staff	Moving around the site will be via the most suitable route for the group. Students will be reminded to use handrails where provided.	2	1	2
Handling objects, artefacts and costumes.	Leaders, students, Volunteers, EH staff	Objects have been blunted where possible. Students will be given safety instructions. Leaders and facilitators will monitor throughout. Students will be asked not to touch, handle or try on any of the objects without express permission. Instruction will be given and students will be monitored when items are worn.	2	2	4
Bites and stings.	Leaders, students, Volunteers, EH staff	Accompanying leaders should carry necessary medication for any students with allergies. Facilitators will be aware of any insect nests on site and ensure the group keep clear.	2	1	2

Severe/ adverse weather.	Leaders, students, Volunteers, EH staff	Facilitators will advise of risks on the day and restrict access to areas of the site or whole site as necessary.	2	1	2
Falling masonry and/or tree branches.	Leaders, students, Volunteers, EH staff	Site staff will check site for fallen masonry and/or tree branches and secure the area before opening the site.	2	1	2
Animal and bird faeces.	Leaders, students, EH staff	Wash hands before eating meals to prevent ingesting bacteria. Site staff will check site for dog faeces and clear away before opening the site.	2	1	2
Interaction with the general public.	Leaders, students	Students must be supervised by accompanying adults whilst on site and in all public areas accessible by other visitors, such as toilets.	2	1	2
Students getting lost/separated from the group.	Students	Appropriate supervision ratios are required at all times. Accompanying adults will be spread among the students, at least one leader to be at the rear of the group. There are clear site procedures in place for missing children.	3	1	3

Risk Assessments for Discovery Visits

Risk = consequence x likelihood in the context of a task i.e. when undertaking this task how bad could it be if it went wrong (almost regardless of whether it would) and what are the chances of it going wrong. They are both qualitative judgements based on objective data.

The Consequence Evaluation
The data you need to evaluate consequence (in the context of the task) are:
• Hazard - the thing with the potential to cause harm.

Consequence is graded on the three point scale where:
• 3 is death or life changing injuries
• 1 is first aid treatable injures
• 2 is everything else.

The Likelihood Evaluation
Local knowledge/information will help judge the chances of the accident happening. It will include things like:
• Frequency and duration
• Numbers of people, vulnerable people
• The environment the activity is carried out in e.g. inside/outside, time of day, weather, distractions
• Accident/incident history
• Controls/supervision
• The equipment involved and its level of maintenance
• Anything else relevant to the likelihood evaluation.

It is not necessary to try to collect every piece of data that might have an effect on the likelihood; we just need to collect the most important pieces of data.

Likelihood is graded on the English Heritage three point scale where:
- 3 is almost certain to occur
- 1 means we would be surprised if the accident happened
- 2 is everything else.

Risk

Risk is calculated by multiplying the consequence rating by the likelihood rating giving potential risk ratings of:
- High (6 and 9)
- Medium (3 and 4)
- Low (1 and 2).