

Berry Pomeroy Castle, Devon

Hazard Information for Education Visits

It is the responsibility of teachers and group leaders to complete a risk assessment prior to the site visit. The following information is intended as an aid and does not replace the group leader's own risk assessment. We recommend coming to the site on a free planning visit, to help you with your risk assessment. Please note: where possible, English Heritage staff at the site will be happy to assist you with your queries, but cannot check or sign any section of your risk assessment.

Environmental conditions at historic sites may change rapidly and you will need to remain alert at all times during your visit. Most accidents are the result of slips and trips so please make sure you wear appropriate footwear and dress sensibly for the site and weather. Please be aware that the site may close at short notice due to adverse weather. Where applicable, stonework and trees at our sites are inspected regularly; however, extreme weather conditions can sometimes affect stonework and trees, so remain vigilant at all times. Please follow any staff instructions and be mindful of temporary barriers and signage. On-going conservation work may pose a temporary hazard; a member of staff will advise you of any works when you visit. Dogs on leashes may be present on site.

All learners who are 16 years or younger must be supervised by a responsible adult at all times whilst on site.

The car and minibus park is situated near the entrance to the site; coaches are not able to access the car park due to the narrow stone gateway at the site entrance.

- Coach passengers are required to disembark at the stone gateway and walk approximately three quarters of a mile along a narrow track.
- The access track is shared by both pedestrians and cars.
- There is no designated footpath through the car park, which can be muddy when wet.

The ruinous nature of the castle presents many potential hazards.

- There are many climbing hazards. Climbing on the walls is not permitted and poses a significant hazard.
- The walls are rough and may contain sharp stones.
- Parts of the site are exposed to the elements and wind.
- The site has very little indoor or sheltered space.

There are large areas of uneven surfaces.

- Ground surfaces are uneven throughout the site and can be slippery when wet.
- The entrance way is cobbled.
- There are remaining stone foundations in many parts of the castle.
- There may be concealed animal holes in grassy areas.

There are sheer drops and steep banks around the site.

- There are unprotected drops onto a rocky hillside in the East Range.
- There are steep grassed banks surrounding the site.
- The steep banks lead down to a river.

There are a number of steps and staircases on the site.

- There are worn stone spiral staircases in the gatehouse.
- There is a steep stone spiral staircase leading to the basement of Margaret Tower; this is very dark.
- Stone steps may be narrow and uneven. Single steps may pose a trip hazard.