

BRODSWORTH HALL AND GARDENS, YORKSHIRE

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 as well as following any staff instructions and being mindful of temporary barriers and signage, please remain vigilant at all times. 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.

Moving vehicles may pose a hazard upon arrival and while on the site.

- There may be gardening vehicles moving around site and also golf buggies are sometimes used to transport people up the drive to the house.

Surfaces may be uneven and change in level; please use paved pathways and designated walkways wherever possible.

- All surfaces may be slippery when wet so running is not allowed and groups must be supervised at all times.
- There may be animal holes in grassed areas so close supervision of students is required.
- Some areas may be roped off if work is being carried out or they are too wet. Please do not access them.
- There are some high drops in some areas so groups must be supervised at all times.

There are many potential hazards in the hall of which group leaders should be aware.

- The entrance to the hall is up a short flight of steps or via a ramp. Once inside, floors are accessed by flights of stone or carpeted steps.
- Some corridors are quite narrow and some rooms very small so groups of 6 with at least 1 adult are only allowed in at a time.
- There are low level ropes at the side of walkways so that the walls and furnishings are protected. Students must be supervised carefully to ensure they do not trip and running anywhere in the house is not allowed.
- Lighting is limited in order to conserve delicate fabrics, so you may find some areas are rather dark which may present problems for visually impaired members of the group.
- Some steps are uneven and worn.
- Please carry bags on the front rather than back to help make sure objects and surfaces are not accidentally brushed/knocked off.
- Please encourage a "no touch policy" to help us preserve delicate fabrics, paint surfaces and items.

There are many potential hazards in the gardens of which group leaders should be aware.

- Many of the plants are potentially harmful including some with poisonous berries, seeds and spores; others have spikes, thorns and hairs that can irritate the skin. The sap of some leaves and trees can cause skin blistering.
- Many species of fungi should not be disturbed to prevent poisonous spores coming into contact with skin. Yew, and Laburnum are among many of the frequently seen toxic trees and shrubs.
- There may be rabbit holes which may present a trip hazard.

- The gardens attract many insects including bees and wasps. Animal and bird droppings are commonly found on paths and amongst fallen leaves. The safest approach is to avoid touching or smelling any plant, including leaves on the paths.
- There are exposed rock faces in the Quarry Garden. Please stick to the designated paths.
- The grounds do have a series of uneven steps and steep slopes in parts. Care should be taken in these areas. Climbing is not permitted.

There are active beehives on site.

- Beehives are present on site. They can be viewed and are situated a safe distance from the viewing area but please be aware that bees may fly close by and will be present throughout the site.
- Hazard to those with allergies. Anyone with a known allergy to bee stings should carry an EpiPen with them at all times.
- Only trained English Heritage staff should be in contact with the hives.
- Anyone who comes across any swarm are advised to stand still, change direction or walk away. Swarms are most likely to occur in humid/stormy conditions
- **The Adventure Playground may cause potential hazards for large groups.**
- Groups are welcome to use the play area, but it is important to note that this is a public space and is very popular with general visitors.
- Students should be supervised by group leaders/ accompanying adults at all times.
- Use of the Adventure Playground is entirely at the group's own risk.

Brodsworth Hall is home to a wide variety of wildlife.

- There are animals and birds on site and their droppings can present a zoonotic hazard. Visitors should wash their hands prior to eating.

Asbestos has been identified on the site. This is common with older buildings and some historic artefacts and is being managed and monitored by English Heritage.

- These areas and objects are clearly marked with red 'a' stickers.
- No activities that may disturb the asbestos are permitted; please raise any concerns or accidental damage with the Site Manager immediately.

Covid-19 and flu.

- We follow government and [NHS guidelines](#) to reduce the risk of transmission. Please also follow their guidance and do not visit if you have flu or Covid-19 symptoms or have recently tested positive.

Please note: There is currently no access to the church as it is not owned by English Heritage.