

CASTLE ACRE PRIORY, NORFOLK

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.

- Coaches are asked to park alongside the barn. This should avoid conflict with other vehicles. Please do NOT try to drive through the arch.

The ruinous nature of the site provides numerous hazards, including ruined walls and steep banks.

- As the site is an ancient monument, there may be occasional falls of masonry.
- Throughout the site there may be wooden covers over tombs and vulnerable tiles. These are not intended to be stood on or walked over and are not weight-bearing.
- The wells on site are fitted with protective meshes or grids but are not weight bearing.
- There is a channel to the south of the site which is full of water at certain times of the year. At other times the area may be boggy.
- Steep banks may be slippery when they are wet and there are vertical unprotected drops next to the mill, the kitchen and across the bridge.
- Climbing on the ruined walls is not permitted.

Surfaces and staircases may be uneven and change in level.

- Floor surfaces throughout the site may be loose and uneven; please use paved pathways and designated walkways wherever possible.
- Staircase treads may be worn and uneven and can become slippery in wet weather; always use the handrail where provided.
- There is an incomplete spiral staircase in the northwest corner of the Priory Gate with a single safety rail at the top. This leads to a steep drop.
- The Outer Parlour staircase is a narrow spiral staircase with rough wall surfaces and low headroom. There are projecting flints.
- The wooden stairs to the Upper Tower chamber are very steep, with a rope handrail and a steep bottom step.
- In the dormitory, there is a staircase to the missing first floor. This leads to a steep, unprotected drop.

Construction and conservation works across the site may pose potential hazards.

- Scaffolding work may be in the process of being constructed or being removed.

- Areas under construction or conservation work have temporary fencing barriers to enclose the ongoing works. Access behind the barriers is not permitted.
- Building work can create loud and sudden noises.
- Construction traffic may move throughout the grounds and gardens.
- Some areas on the site may not be accessible during this work. Please check with site staff on arrival and follow the prescribed route signage.

Displays within the visitor centre may pose a hazard.

- There are some large stone displays that project and overhang in the exhibition hall.

Trees onsite may pose a hazard.

- There are low overhanging tree branches over the main pathway to the ruins.

Animal activity onsite may present a hazard.

- There are animals and birds on site, and their droppings can present a zoonotic hazard. Visitors should be reminded to wash their hands prior to eating.
- Rabbit holes around the site may pose a trip hazard.
- Mole hills around the site may pose a trip hazard.

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.