Chesters Roman Fort and Museum, Northumberland

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 is a public car and coach park outside the main entrance to the site. There may be some vehicles entering and leaving the car park. Parking charges apply to cars.
- Grounds maintenance teams may use vehicles throughout the grounds.

The ruinous nature of the fort presents many potential hazards.

- The ground is undulating and grassed. It can be slippery during and after wet weather.
- Walls are rough and contain uneven and often sharp stones.
- There is low masonry around the site.
- Climbing on the walls is not permitted and poses a significant hazard.
- There is a steep slope down to the Bathhouse, which can be slippery.
- There are some unfenced drops and occasional potholes or animal burrows underfoot.
- The site is close to a fast-moving river - students must be supervised at all times.

The viewing platform may pose possible hazards for use by large groups.

- There is a small wooden platform on the riverbank, which should be accessed in small groups and under close supervision.

The museum may pose possible hazards.

- The museum rooms are small and contain glass cases, and free-standing, large stone objects. Small groups should visit under supervision.

Chesters Roman Fort is home to a wide variety of flora and fauna.

- There are animals and birds on site and their droppings can present a zoonotic hazard. Visitors should wash their hands prior to eating.
- Tick Bites are possible, especially between (April – June) Long sleeved t shirts and trousers are recommended and exposed skin should be checked after visit.

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.