

CLEEVE ABBEY, SOMERSET

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 coach park is situated offsite, down a minor road.

- It is necessary to cross and walk along a narrow road with no pavement to get to the site entrance; hedges and a bend in the road limit visibility.
- There is no footpath to the site. The access track is shared by both pedestrians and vehicles.

The historic nature of the site presents potential hazards.

- The walls are rough and may contain sharp stones.
- There are many climbing hazards; climbing is not permitted and poses a significant hazard.
- The site is exposed to the elements; there are some sheltered and indoor spaces on site.

There are large areas of uneven surfaces around the site.

- Ground surfaces are uneven throughout the site and can be slippery when wet.
- There are worn cobbled and flagstone floors in the ground floor rooms of the buildings.
- There are few defined paths around the foundations; there may be concealed animal holes in grassy areas.

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

- There are worn, spiral stone day stairs and refectory stairs leading off the Cloister.
- There are wooden stairs leading to the Upper Chamber and Farmhouse Range.

There are high walls with sheer drops.

- There are high balconies with banisters in the Upper Chamber and Farmhouse Range.

There is open access to water on site.

- A stream with unprotected banks runs through the site. The banks may be concealed by plants and grasses.
- There is a river running alongside the site.
- It is necessary to cross a low-sided bridge over the river to access the site entrance.

There are some areas with low headroom.

- There are low doorways.
- There is limited headroom in some of the abbey buildings.

There are learning resources that can be used by groups on-site, including handling collections.

- The objects in the handling collection may have rough edges, points or protrusions.
- Learners must be supervised at all times by Leaders while using the resources.
- The objects may have been handled by multiple groups; always wash hands after use.

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.