

Conisbrough Castle, 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.

- The coach parking area is based at the bottom of the hill and the road up to the castle is often busy.
- Once inside the gates, please take care when crossing the disabled visitors' car park as there may be vehicle movement.

The ruinous nature of the castle site presents many hazards, including sudden drops, uneven ground and stairs.

- There are high grass banks and ditches surrounding the castle, which can be slippery when wet. Visitors must not climb on the banks and groups must be supervised at all times.
- There are sudden drops and unexpected changes in ground level around the site. Advice on all signs should be pointed out to students and followed.
- It is recommended that students do not use the outer paths surrounding the monument because they are uneven, the surface is slippery, and they are narrow in places and occasionally very muddy. There are also no handrails or barriers.
- The grass areas around the castle can be slippery and all visitors must use caution.
- Some of the plants growing wild around the site may have spikes, thorns and hairs that can irritate the skin.
- There are old, uneven steps and staircases throughout.
- Walls are rough and contain uneven and often sharp stones.
- There are some low stone foundations in the grounds, and these may be slippery when wet. Therefore, running on site is forbidden and groups must be supervised carefully at all times.

The castle keep poses numerous hazards, including steps, low light levels and roof access.

- The exterior concrete steps into the keep can be slippery in wet or icy weather. Use the handrail to climb the staircase.
- Lighting levels vary from outside to inside the keep and onto the roof area. Time should be given to allow eyesight to adjust to changes in these levels.
- Use the handrail to climb the staircases inside the keep as flooring can be uneven and slippery at times.
- Access to the roof area is by a narrow, steep, stone staircase which can be slippery when it is raining.

- Descent from the roof is via the same staircase and users may encounter visitors going the opposite way.
- Please be aware that the roof area of the keep is exposed and open to the elements. Close supervision is needed at all times.
- Pigeons do enter the keep and may fly out unexpectedly.

Education Room.

- The room is quite small and the chairs and tables could be trip hazards. Please supervise your students appropriately – enter one by one and fill up the room from the bottom end first.
- Please do not leave bags etc on the floor. They should be placed in the storage baskets provided.

Conisbrough Castle is home to a wide variety of plant and animal wildlife.

- 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.
- Please be aware that local people walk their dogs in the area as it is open to public access at all times.
- There may be rabbit holes in the area which may present a trip hazard.
- There are a number of pigeons at the top of the keep who may fly out unexpectedly.
- There are mature trees on site that may drop branches in rare circumstances; care should be taken when passing under or near large trees.

Conisbrough Castle is open to the public

- The castle is open to the public so please be aware that there will be other visitors on site.
- Some visitors bring dogs, which should always be on a lead.