

DEAL CASTLE, KENT

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 parking adjacent to the site; the drop-off point is in the car park 75m away.
- It is necessary to walk along a road to reach the site entrance; there is a pavement.

The walking surfaces may be uneven and change in level; please use designated walkways wherever possible.

- All surfaces may be slippery when wet.
- Steps may be worn and uneven; single steps may pose a trip hazard.
- Be aware of animal holes in grassed areas.
- The eastern side of the Rounds is prone to flooding in wet weather; warning signs will be posted.
- The well in the basement is covered by a grille.
- The moat is a dry moat and only opens when conditions allow.

The construction of the site presents numerous climbing hazards; climbing on walls or over/under barriers is not permitted.

- Walls are rough and may contain sharp stones.
- Guns on the bastions must not be climbed.

There are high walls and sheer drops on site, some of which are unguarded.

- The bastions have low walls and a sheer drop into the dry moat.
- The garderobe on the first floor has an open chute with a low guard rail.

Staircase treads may be worn and uneven; always use the handrail where provided.

- Steps may be slippery when wet or icy.
- There is a central spiral staircase in the Keep and steps between levels.
- Wooden spiral staircase leads to the basement and a steep wooden staircase leads back up.

There are areas of low lighting in the Rounds; please take care when moving around.

- Gun ports and passages are narrow and irregular.
- Surfaces are uneven and sometimes slippery.

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.

Handling objects could cause injury if they are misused.

- A water pump with moving parts remains.
- There are interactive elements in the exhibition.

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.