Farleigh Hungerford Castle, 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 small coach park is situated outside the stone gateway, just off the road.

- The coach park is suitable for two coaches.
- Coaches should pull into the parking space before passengers alight.
- Coach passengers should remain vigilant for other vehicles when leaving the coach park and when returning to the coach.

A car and minibus park is situated at the back of the castle site.

- Vehicles drive through the site to reach the car park.
- There is no footpath from the car park. The access track is shared by both pedestrians and cars.
- Coaches are not permitted to pass through the stone gateway to the car park.

The historic nature of the castle presents many potential hazards.

- There are many climbing hazards. Climbing on the walls is not permitted and poses a significant hazard.
- The walls are rough and may contain sharp stones.
- Parts of the site are exposed to the elements.

There are large areas of uneven surfaces.

- Ground surfaces are uneven throughout the site and can be slippery when wet.
- There are cobbled paths leading to the Education Room, Priest's House and Chapel.
- There are remaining stone foundations in many parts of the site.
- Gravel areas and loose stone can be a skid hazard.
- There may be concealed animal holes in grassy areas.

There are steep banks and inclines on areas of the site.

- There are steep, grassed banks and ditches surrounding the site.
- The dry moat at the back of the castle has very steep sides.

There are high walls and sheer drops around the site.

- The bridge leading to the car park has sheer drops on both sides; the bridge has low side walls.
- Access from the outer to the inner court is over a wooden foot bridge with sheer drops on both sides; the bridge has a handrail.

- The well in the inner court is covered by a grill; however, visitors should not climb on to, or lean over the well walls.

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

- There are some staircases with no handrails.
- The steps down to the crypt are very steep and dark.
- There is a wooden spiral staircase with open treads in the Priest's House exhibition area.

There are some areas with low headroom.

- The crypt and crypt access staircase have limited headroom.
- The Priest's House exhibition area has low doorways.

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.