

FRAMLINGHAM CASTLE, SUFFOLK

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.

- The car park can get very busy at times; please be wary of fast-moving vehicles entering the car park.
- There is no dedicated coach parking at Framlingham Castle. Drop off and pick up from the entrance will be required. Coaches can drop off and pick up in front of The Castle Inn pub.
- In the winter, when the car park is quieter, coaches may be able to drive up and turn around in our car park. Otherwise, coaches that enter the car park will need to reverse back onto Castle Street.

Surfaces may be uneven and change in level; please use paved pathways and designated walkways wherever possible.

- There are a number of trip hazards around the site as paths and paving are uneven in places.
- There are raised thresholds in some doorways, including into the workhouse and the toilets.
- The historic brick floor in the workhouse kitchen area is uneven and worn.

The ruinous nature of the site presents numerous climbing hazards.

- Climbing presents a significant hazard and is not permitted.
- As the site is an ancient monument, there may be irregular falls of masonry. We recommend that you avoid grouping students underneath the walls. Any areas considered to be a high risk will be roped off.
- The well is protected by a grille; climbing on the grille is unsafe and not permitted.

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

- The spiral staircase from the museum up to the wall walk is steep, narrow and badly worn in places. There is a rope handrail which should be used where possible.

There is a wall walk around the top of the curtain wall.

- There is low headroom through doors into towers on the wall walk.
- The timber bridges can be slippery when wet.
- There is a very steep drop from the top of the wall walk which is protected by handrails.
- Parts of the wall walk have uneven surfaces.

There are various hazards to be aware of when outside of the castle walls, including steep banks and climbing hazards.

- There are a number of steep banks and moats. Several ‘unofficial’ routes have been created around these and banks have been used as slides, particularly near the main entrance. Please avoid these areas.
- Parts of the path are very steep and slippery.
- Please be aware that there may be unseen hazards in the long grass.
- The wooden bridges on the main route can be slippery.
- Climbing onto walls can lead to steep drops and is not permitted.
- There may be water in the base of the moat in wet weather.
- There are low overhanging tree branches over the main pathway to the ruins.

Dogs and wildlife may be present on site.

- The area outside of the castle walls is used for dog walking.
- On occasion, pigeons nest around the site and will fly out of inside spaces as you approach the area. Their droppings can be found on some steps and handrails. There may be a risk of zoonotic infection and visitors should wash their hands before eating.
- Wasp and bee stings present a hazard to those with allergies. Anyone with a known allergy should carry the necessary medication with them at all times.
- Visitors should be aware that animals may bite.

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.