

Grime's Graves – Prehistoric Flint Mines, 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.

- Cars, coaches and minibuses use the main car park; there is no designated walkway through the car park.
- There is no distinct fence between the car park and heathland, so please ensure students are aware where the car park starts and the heathland ends.

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

- The site is in heathland with rabbit burrows, tree stumps and other vegetation. The entire area is covered with undulations and slopes where the disused mine shafts are located. The whole site is rough and uneven terrain.
- The site may be slippery and muddy when wet.
- There may be sharp flints present across the whole site.

Wildlife, wild animals, grazing livestock and dogs may be present on site.

- There may be animals on site including sheep and wild deer. Please do not approach them.
- There may be a risk of zoonotic infection; ensure visitors wash their hands after contact with animals.
- Dogs are permitted in some areas of the site but should be on a lead.
- Snakes (adders) may be present around grassy areas; please do not approach them.
- Please join us in protecting and conserving this landscape by encouraging a 'look only' policy while visiting the site. Please do not pick any flowers and plants.

The flint mine poses a number of hazards including uneven surfaces and low lighting levels.

- The mine open to the public is accessed via a 9-metre ladder. Hard hats are provided, and the ladder is supervised at all times by a member of the site team. The ladder is fitted with safety hoops, secure handrails and wide treads. Numbers in the mine are limited to 15 and only one person at a time is allowed on the ladder.
- Low levels of natural light in the mine shaft itself, although there is artificial lighting in the galleries at the bottom of the shaft. The walls are very uneven with projecting stones.
- There is no access down the shaft for children under 7 years old, or for those with limited mobility.

- The mine is an enclosed space; please ensure all group members are confident to enter the mine. If you are concerned about claustrophobia please talk to a member of staff.

Please follow the signs in the toilets on site.

- The toilets on site are chemical toilets. Please follow the signs displayed in the toilets. If you have any questions, please speak to a member of staff.