

Hailes Abbey, Gloucestershire

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 car and coach park is adjacent to the site.

- There is no designated footpath through the car park.
- Coaches are recommended to park in the car park next to the church where there is more space.

The historic nature of the site presents potential hazards.

- The walls are rough and may contain sharp stones.
- There are many climbing hazards; climbing is not permitted and poses a significant hazard.
- The site is outdoors and exposed to the elements. The exhibition area is the only indoor space on site.
- There is no indoor lunch space.

There are large areas of uneven surfaces.

- Ground surfaces are uneven throughout and can be slippery when wet.
- There are few defined paths on the property, and it is mainly grassed.
- There are raised stone foundations in many areas.
- There may be animal holes and dips in the ground which may be concealed.

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

- There are ruined Night Stairs with worn steps just off the Cloister; these are unsafe and have unguarded ends. Please do not climb the Night Stairs.
- Stone steps may be narrow and uneven.
- Single steps may pose a trip hazard.

There are sheer drops on the site.

- There are sheer drops to the waterway in the latrine area. These are largely covered with grilles or are fenced off.

There are banks and inclines on the site.

- There are steep grassed banks around the edge of the abbey site.

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.