

LYDDINGTON BEDE HOUSE, LEICESTERSHIRE

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.

- Church Lane and Blue Coat Lane are used by visitors to the Bede House for parking and for access to houses in the lane. These lanes are used occasionally by delivery vehicles and residents' cars.

The Bede House's medieval remains may present many potential hazards.

- There are uneven surfaces throughout the Bede House, along with uneven and sometimes steep steps to all levels. Some of the doorways leading into the rooms on the ground floor have low lintels.
- In the Great Hall a garderobe in one corner contains a hole in the floor surface. This is guarded by a wooden rail.
- A steep, narrow staircase leads up to the second floor.
- Within this space there are low roof timbers in places. At the far end of the room a low doorway leads via steep steps down to a smaller room at a lower level.
- There are low roof trusses in this area.
- Some doors have wooden braces at floor level which need to be stepped over.
- Please walk at all times and ensure students are supervised in all areas.
- Running in this building is forbidden.

There are many potential hazards in the orchard and gardens of which group leaders should be aware.

- This grassed area contains clumps of nettles and brambles. On the approach to the corner tower there is an unguarded steep drop to the right.
- The flowerbeds in the garden in front of the entrance to the Bede House are planted with a variety of plants that are likely to have been found in a medieval herb garden. Some of these are poisonous if ingested, e.g. foxgloves and may provoke allergic reactions if touched.
- There is a deep well in the garden but it is covered and locked at all times.

Lyddington Bede House is home to a wide variety of wildlife.

- There are animals and birds on site and their droppings can present a zoonotic hazard. Students should wash their hands prior to eating.

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.