

Middleham Castle, Yorkshire

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.

- There is no parking on-site. Students will need to walk to the site. This is via a quiet access road to farms and houses.

The ruinous nature of the castle site may present many potential hazards.

- The floor surfaces are uneven throughout and there are old, uneven steps and staircases. Walls are rough and contain uneven and often sharp stones.
- There are banks and ditches around the castle site, which can be slippery. There are external wooden staircases, and extra care must be taken in wet and icy weather.
- A stone spiral staircase is accessible from every floor of the keep.
- The modern wooden staircases are steep and may be slippery in inclement weather. The viewing platform on the first floor is reached via a new spiral staircase. A warning sign is in place.
- Pools of water form at the base of the keep during bad weather. Care should be taken around this area.
- The keep upper levels can only be approached via the stone spiral staircase. It is very exposed. There is a warning sign in place.
- Descent from the platform is via the same staircase and is steep and users are likely to encounter visitors going the opposite way.
- Climbing on the walls and running on site is forbidden and groups must be supervised at all times.

Middleham Castle is home to a wide variety of wildlife.

- There are animals and birds on site and their droppings can present a zoonotic hazard. Visitors should wash their hands prior to eating.
- Some plants on site may provoke allergic reactions if touched.
- There may be bees and wasps on site when you visit.

Visitors on site.

- The castle is open to the public so please be aware that there will be other visitors on site. Please be respectful.
- Students should stay with their group whilst looking around the castle.

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.