

RICHMOND 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.

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

- The ruinous nature of the castle presents many climbing hazards. Visitors must not climb on any part of the historic fabric of the property.
- The floor surfaces are uneven throughout and there are old, uneven steps and staircases, particularly in the keep. Walls are rough and contain uneven and often sharp stones.
- There are cobbled surfaces which are uneven and can be slippery in wet weather.
- There is a well by the curtain walls near Robin Hood's Tower bounded by low walls and covered with a metal grate. This should not be stood on.
- There are banks and ditches around the site, some of which are steep. Visitors must not climb on the banks or ditches. There are steep cliffs overlooking the river which are fenced and signed. Visitors must not climb or cross this perimeter fencing.
- Access to the roof area is by a narrow, steep, stone staircase. Descent from the roof is via the same staircase and users may encounter visitors going the opposite way. Please be aware that the roof area of the keep is exposed and open to the elements. Close supervision is needed at all times.
- Some stones may be loose and quite sharp. Please take care and please do not move any loose stones.

Richmond Castle is home to a wide variety of flora and fauna.

- There are potentially harmful plants on site, including some with thorns that can irritate the skin.
- There are animals and birds on site and their droppings can present a zoonotic hazard. Visitors should wash their hands prior to eating. **Visitors must not eat in any of the castle keep rooms.**
- Children should be reminded not to touch or eat any part of the plants or seeds in the contemporary heritage garden or elsewhere on site.
- There may be rabbit holes on site which could present a trip hazard.

The handling collection may pose possible hazards within the museum.

- This is a collection of historic and replica objects, stored in a wooden box.
- Students must be supervised at all times when using the handling collection.
- Some objects are breakable so should be handled with care. Please report breakages to staff so that they can be removed safely.

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 must stay with their group leaders whilst looking around the castle.
- Some visitors may bring dogs on site. These will be on a lead.

Asbestos has been identified on the site. This is common with older buildings and some historic artefacts and is being managed and monitored by English Heritage.

- These areas and objects are clearly marked with red 'a' stickers.
- No activities that may disturb the asbestos are permitted; please raise any concerns or accidental damage with the Site Manager immediately.

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.