Scarborough 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 presents many hazards, including uneven surfaces, steep banks and steps.

- The floor surfaces are uneven throughout and there are old, uneven steps and staircases. Students must be supervised at all times.
- Walls are rough and contain uneven and often sharp stones.
- There is a steep slope with a cobbled surface up to the bailey. This surface is uneven and can be slippery when wet.
- There are banks and ditches some of which are steep, no visitors are permitted access.
- There are steep cliffs overlooking the sea, which are fenced and have warning signs. Visitors must not climb or cross the perimeter fencing.
- There are steps to the viewing platform which has a handrail. Students need to be carefully supervised when using the platform.
- The steps from the outer to inner bailey are steep and uneven at the top where they meet the wall surface.

Scarborough 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.
- There are likely to be bees and wasps on site due to the flowers present.

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.