

St Augustine's Abbey, Kent

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 are public car parks nearby.
- There is a coach park in Kingsmead Road and a coach drop-off point at Canterbury East Railway station.

The walking surfaces may be uneven and change in level; please use designated walkways wherever possible.

- All surfaces may be slippery when wet.
- Steps may be worn and uneven; single steps may pose a trip hazard.
- The Crypt contains a large number of low pillars.
- Be aware of animal holes in grassed areas.
- Wooden ramps and bridges on site may be slippery.

The construction of the site provides numerous climbing hazards; climbing on walls or over/under barriers is not permitted.

- Walls are rough and may contain sharp stones.
- Climbing any of the trees or banks on site is strictly forbidden.

There are high walls and sheer drops on site, some of which are unguarded.

- Wulfric's Rotunda has a sheer drop, with no fence.
- There is a steep bank near the Mound, which leads to a busy road.

Staircase treads may be worn and uneven; always use the handrail where provided.

- Steps may be slippery when wet or icy.

St Augustine's Abbey is home to a wide variety of flora and fauna.

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

Covid-19 and flu.

- Details. 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.