

Stott Park Bobbin Mill, Cumbria

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.

- There are two car parks close to the site. The upper car park also has coach parking and is 200m from the site entrance. It has a steep, gravelled path to the mill. Other visitors will also use this car park regularly.

The rural nature of the mill site may pose possible hazards.

- Surfaces are often uneven and can be slippery when wet.
- A water course runs through the site and has steep drops in some cases. The weather can change the nature of the watercourse rapidly, often with little warning.
- There is a pit at the rear of the mill, which used to house the waterwheel. This is surrounded by railings to protect visitors from the sharp drop. The railings should not be climbed or swung on.
- There is little shelter on site from inclement weather outside the mill building. An outdoor exhibition space does have some cover from wet weather.
- The coppice wood has undulating paths which can be slippery in wet conditions.
- Due to recent felling of ash trees, there are piles of stacked timber present on site which present a hazard if climbed on.

The industrial and historic nature of the mill presents many potential hazards.

- The mill contains working machinery and tours take the visitors close to the moving and operating parts of the machinery, some of which have hot metal surfaces.
- Staff will demonstrate the machinery, saws, lathes, borers and hand tools and this equipment must not be touched or handled by visitors.
- The mill floor can be ankle-deep in wood shavings. Care must be taken when moving between the different ground-floor areas of the mill.
- When demonstrations are taking place, noise levels can be high due to the nature of the machinery being used.
- Access to the upper levels of the mill is via steep, uneven wooden steps with limited head room. People with limited mobility will only be able to access the lower level of the mill.

Stott Park Bobbin Mill 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.

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.