

Tilbury Fort, Essex

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.

- Coaches drop off in the car park, there will be other vehicles driving and parking in the area.

The defensive nature of the site presents a number of potential hazards, including steep drops, iron railings and water defences.

- There are some sharp pointed iron railings at low heights around the site.
- There are a number of very steep drops around the fort.
- Visitors are not to climb onto walls as there are steep drops onto hard surfaces from wall tops.
- The fort is surrounded by water defences. There is no authorised access to them.

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

- Many of the floor surfaces around the fort are uneven. Some are surfaced with loose gravel and surfaces can become slippery when wet.
- Steps and staircases throughout the fort are worn and uneven. There are also steep grass banks with stone steps which get slippery when wet.
- Some steps at entrances to rooms and buildings are uneven and the change of light levels at these points may increase the hazard.

Guns and cannons around the site may present a hazard.

- The guns and canons present a significant hazard and climbing on them is not permitted.
- Parts of the guns and canons on display could move slightly trapping or pinching fingers.
- Some cannons on top of the bank are located near unguarded drops.