

TINTAGEL CASTLE, CORNWALL

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'll need to remain alert at all times during your visit. Make sure you wear sensible footwear and dress appropriately 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, storm damage can sometimes affect the stability of stonework and branches of apparently healthy trees. 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.

COVID-19 INFORMATION

We want to reassure you that we're following government guidance to make your trip as safe and enjoyable as possible.

We've introduced a range of new hygiene standards and social distancing measures. Our staff and facilitators have received guidance to help them safely run education visits at this time, and we've also created a general risk assessment for education visitors to help you with your individual risk assessments. You can find this and other information about what to expect on your visit at: english-heritage.org.uk/schools-what-to-expect

We've also detailed key changes on the individual site schools pages of our website, so please check before you visit. Once your booking is confirmed, we recommend booking a free planning visit to help you prepare for your trip and familiarise yourself with the site.

There is no car or coach park on site; cars and coaches should park in the town pay and display car park.

- Access to the site is via a 600 metre walk along a steep track.
- The access track is shared by both pedestrians and vehicles.
- There is a limited 4x4 transport service for visitors with mobility issues.

The historic nature of the site presents many potential hazards.

- The walls are rough and may contain sharp stones.
- The site is exposed to the elements.
- Climbing is not permitted and poses a significant hazard.

There are large areas of uneven surfaces around the property.

- The ground surfaces are uneven throughout and can be slippery when wet.
- There are remaining stone foundations on the site.
- Natural ground surfaces of slate, gravel and grass may be unstable due to erosion.
- There may be concealed animal holes in grassy areas.

There are steep banks and inclines on much of the site.

- The site is surrounded by steep, unfenced cliffs down to the sea.
- There are grassy and rocky banks on the headland.
- The valley sides drop away into a stream below.

There are high walls and sheer drops around the site.

- Both bridges between the mainland and the headland have sheer drops on either side.
- The headland cliffs drop into the sea.
- The mainland courtyards have drops onto rocks and the sea.
- There is a 40 millimetre gap between the two halves of the cantilever bridge.

There are a number of steps and staircases on the site; these can be slippery when wet.

- The return route from the headland has narrow, worn stone steps.
- There are some staircases with no handrails.
- Stone steps may be narrow and uneven.
- Single steps may pose a trip hazard.
- The wooden steps to the beach are slippery when wet.

There is open access to water on the site.

- There is a stream running past the shop building to the cliff edge and waterfall.
- The site is surrounded by the sea.
- The beach is only accessible at low tide and can flood quickly.

Livestock may be present and grazing on site.

- Animals may bite or kick; please do not approach them.
- Animal droppings may present a zoonotic hazard; always wash hands prior to eating.