



CONISBROUGH CASTLE, SOUTH YORKSHIRE Hazard Information Sheet for Educational Groups

It is the responsibility of teachers and group leaders to complete a risk assessment prior to any site visit being made. This is a requirement of most local education authorities. The following information is intended as a preparatory tool and does not replace a teacher's or group leader's own risk assessment. Please be aware that conditions at historic sites may change rapidly, and that you will need to remain alert at all times during your visit.

Please do not ask our staff to fill in, check, or sign any sections of your risk assessment, as they have no responsibility to do so.

Dropping Off: The coach parking area is based at the bottom of the hill and the busy road up to the castle is used by buses and lorries. Once inside the gates, please take care when crossing the car park for disabled visitors to the Visitor Centre and toilets as there may be vehicle movement. Please note the step over the threshold on the entrance to the toilet area.

Visitor Centre: The Visitor Centre's tiled floor is slippery when wet or dusty.

Moving around the site: There are high grass banks and ditches surrounding the castle, which can be slippery when wet. Visitors must not climb on the banks at any time.

There are sudden drops and unexpected changes in ground level around the site. Advice on all signs should be pointed out to pupils and followed.

There are uneven paths around the castle, which can be muddy and slippery in wet weather. The grass areas around the castle can be slippery and all visitors must use caution. Some of the plants growing wild around the site may have spikes, thorns and hairs that can irritate the skin.

The ruinous nature of the castle presents many climbing hazards. Climbing of walls is prohibited. Floors and ground surfaces are uneven, and where exposed to the elements can be wet and slippery. There are old, uneven steps and staircases throughout. Walls are rough and contain uneven and often sharp stones. There are some low stone foundations in the grounds and these may be slippery when wet. Sensible footwear and outdoor clothing are necessary.

There are animals and birds on site and their droppings can present a zoonotic hazard. Children should be reminded to wash their hands prior to eating.

Keep:

The exterior concrete steps into the keep can be slippery in wet or icy weather. Use the handrail to climb the staircase.

Lighting levels vary from outside to inside the keep and onto the roof area. Time should be given to allow eyesight to adjust to changes in these levels.

Use the handrail to climb the staircases inside the keep. Flooring can be uneven and slippery at times. Care is needed.

Access to the roof area is by a narrow, steep, stone staircase. Descent from the roof is via the same staircase and users may encounter visitors going the opposite way. Please be aware that the roof area of the keep is exposed and open to the elements. Close supervision is needed at all times.

Trees: All the trees on our sites are inspected annually. However, storm damage can sometimes affect the stability of apparently healthy trees and branches. Group leaders should be particularly aware of this when undertaking their own risk assessments prior to a visit.

Ongoing conservation or maintenance work on site may cause additional temporary hazards. **A member of the Visitor Operations Team will advise you of these when you make your planning visit and on the day of your group's visit.**

If you would like this document in a different format, please contact
our Customer Services department:
Telephone: 0870 333 1181
Fax: 01793 414926
Textphone: 01793 414878
E-mail: customers@english-heritage.org.uk