

## KIRBY MUXLOE CASTLE, LEICESTERSHIRE

### 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 remain vigilant at all times. Please follow any staff instructions and be mindful of temporary barriers and signage. 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.

**The car and coach park is adjacent to the site.**

- There is no designated footpath through the car park.

**The historic nature of the site presents potential hazards.**

- There are many climbing hazards. Climbing on the walls is not permitted and poses a significant hazard.
- The walls are rough and may contain sharp stones.
- There are several garderobe drops on site covered by metal grilles; these should not be stood upon.
- There are ruined towers situated at three corners of the site that have direct drops into the moat.
- The upper floors of the gatehouse and west tower have high drops guarded by railings.
- There are low doorways and areas with limited light in the gatehouse and west tower.
- There are ruined staircases and dead-end passages in the castle buildings.

**There are uneven surfaces around the property.**

- Ground surfaces are uneven throughout the site and can be slippery when wet.
- There are raised stone foundations throughout the property.
- There may be concealed animal holes in grassy areas.
- There are grassed slopes and inclines within the castle area.
- The path around the moat can be muddy with overgrown plants on each side.

**There are a number of steps and staircases on the site.**

- There are a number of steps and staircases in the gatehouse and west tower; these are brick with uneven edges and treads.
- There are spiral staircases with no handrail; the staircases have no windows in places and can have low light levels.

**There is open access to water on the site.**

- There is a wooden bridge over the moat to the castle entrance.
- There is a moat surrounding the castle; the moat is 3 metres deep in places.
- The castle site has sheer drops into the moat at every edge.
- Plants and pond weed may obscure the water's edge on the exterior bank.

**There are often wild birds on site.**

- A flock of wild geese reside at the castle; please do not feed them or reach out to touch them.
- Bird droppings make the ground surfaces slippery.

- Bird droppings may present a zoonotic hazard. Visitors should wash hands prior to eating meals.

There are various plants on the path around the exterior of the moat; some may pose a hazard.

- Plant material and thorns may be toxic or poisonous; always wash hands prior to eating meals.
- Plants may block the path in areas; the path runs close to the water's edge in places.

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.