

Warkworth Castle

HAZARD INFORMATION SHEET FOR EDUCATIONAL GROUPS

It is the responsibility of teachers and group leaders to complete their own risk assessment prior to their visit. This is usually a requirement specified by local education authorities. 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. 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 weather conditions at some historic sites may change rapidly and you will need to remain alert at all times during your visit.

Dropping off: There is a designated car park in front of the gatehouse. *Coach space is available, but please advise site staff in advance if you wish to park a coach on-site.

Beware of other vehicles entering and leaving the car park.

Avoid using the front of the gatehouse as assembly point; use the grass verges.

Toilets are in the corner of the car park.

Castle perimeter: Avoid pupils from climbing the moat with steep, unfenced grassy banks.

Descend via path. The narrow path leading to the village has steep sides and descends to the river.

Access into the castle: Cross the wooden bridge, go over the dry moat and go through the gatehouse to the admission point. The surface is uneven and there is one step. Avoid using the entrance passage as assembly point.

Access onto the site: There is no prescribed route or set pathways from the admission point. The ground within the castle is grassed and can be slippery during and after rainfall. Sensible footwear and outdoor clothing are necessary.

Castle remains: The ruinous condition of the castle presents many climbing hazards. Walls are rough and contain uneven and sharp stones. Ground surfaces inside ruined spaces are either paved or gravelled, and where exposed to elements can be wet and slippery. In places, steps are worn and uneven. The interior of the church crypt is dark and the ground is uneven and damp. There is a sudden drop from the crypt roof. The low chain fence should not be crossed. Pupils should be supervised at all times.

Keep: Access to the first floor is via wooden steps. When leaving the keep in wet weather descend with care. There is limited lighting throughout and numerous changes of floor level with uneven floors. Ground and first-floor levels have a complex series of inter-connecting rooms and staircases which may disorientate some pupils. There are low open windows on the upper floor. Pupils must be supervised at all times.

Access to the shop: All visitors are welcome to use the shop. Please supervise your pupils and limit the number of children in the shop at any one time.

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.