

BEESTON CASTLE, CHESHIRE

Risk Assessment for Discovery Visit (guided Education session)

Activity: Prehistoric Settlers
Site: Beeston Castle and Woodland Park
Date updated: 1st June 2017
Review date: 1st June 2018
Prepared by: Education Visits Officer (West)

Description and Notes

This risk assessment covers the 'Prehistoric Settlers' Discovery Visit session from when the group meets their guide in the museum to the time when the session is completed at the top of the hill. It does not cover the walk from the coach/car park to the site or museum; information relating to other areas of the site can be found on the property Hazard Information Sheet.

The Discovery Visit is a 1.5 hour long interactive session delivered by English Heritage site staff, including a hands-on object handling session in the museum and a walking tour of Beeston Castle. During this time the students will have the opportunity to explore features of the site and handle replica objects.

Hazard	To Whom	Initial Risk S x L = R			Control Measures	Risk With Controls S x L = R		
		S	L	R		S	L	R
Uneven paths and ground with low stone foundations.	Adults, students, staff	4	4	16	The group will be advised of this hazard prior to beginning the session and students must be supervised at all times by accompanying adults. Running on site will not be permitted and extra care will be taken in wet and/or windy weather. Verbal warnings of particular hazards will be given during the session and movement on site will follow designated paths wherever possible.	4	1	4
High walls and sheer drops.	Adults, students, staff	5	2	10	The group will be advised of this hazard prior to beginning the session and students must be supervised at all times by accompanying adults. Students and adults will be reminded again by site staff in areas where there are unguarded steep drops. Climbing on walls and over barriers will not be permitted.	5	1	5
Steep paths, steps and stairs.	Adults, students, staff	5	2	10	The group will be advised of this hazard prior to beginning the session and students must be supervised at all times by accompanying adults. Moving around the site will be via the most acceptable route for the group. Use handrails on the bridge and steps where provided.	5	1	5
Low headroom doorways.	Adults, students, staff	2	2	6	Risk acceptable. The group will be warned of any low lintels and ceilings.	2	1	2
Handling objects and artefacts.	Adults, students	4	2	8	Risk acceptable. Follow guidelines for handling objects, always under adult supervision in small groups. Ensure props are held and used appropriately to prevent injury to the individual or others.	2	2	4
Animal faeces.	Adults, students, staff	3	2	6	Risk acceptable. Wash hands before eating meals to prevent ingesting bacteria. Site staff will check site for dog faeces and clear away before opening the site.	3	1	3

Bites and stings.	Adults, students, staff	5	2	10	Accompanying adults will carry necessary medication for any students with allergies. Site staff will be aware of any insect nests on site and ensure the group keep clear.	5	1	5
Severe/adverse weather.	Adults, students, staff	5	3	15	Site staff will advise of risks on the day and restrict access to areas of the site or whole site as necessary.	5	1	5
Falling masonry and/or tree branches.	Adults, students, staff	6	2	12	Site staff will check site for fallen masonry and/or tree branches and secure the area before opening the site. Regular checking and maintenance of the site by staff.	6	1	6

Risk Assessment Score overall (average after risk controls) = 4.3

Risk Assessments for Discovery Visits

Risk assessments are worked out by identifying possible hazards and putting in place measures to significantly reduce the likelihood of the hazard occurring. Once this has been done a simple calculation which multiplies the hazard score for the activity by the chance of it happening gives a risk assessment score. A low score signifies little or no risk; a high score would indicate the activity is potentially dangerous.

Hazard Severity:

1. No risk of injury
2. Slight risk (minor injury requiring first aid)
3. Moderate risk (injury resulting in 3 days off work/school)
4. High risk (resulting in a major injury)
5. Very high risk (causing death or serious injury to an individual)
6. Extremely high risk (causing multiple deaths and widespread destruction)

Multiplied by

Likelihood of Occurrence:

1. Not likely (only under rare conditions)
2. Possible (if other factors are present and contributing)
3. Quite possible (if other factors precipitate it)
4. Likely (with other factors or carelessness)
5. Very likely (accident waiting to happen)
6. Certain

Risk factor of 8 or less: Acceptable risk level; address risk further if possible.

Risk factor between 8 and 12: Tolerable risk level; activity may proceed but risk must be addressed and reduced to acceptable level if possible.

Risk factor of 13 or more: Unacceptable risk level; activity must not proceed and risk must be addressed and reduced to tolerable level at least and acceptable level if possible.

The numerical scale used is to allow comparisons of risk levels only, no literal meaning is implied by the scoring level.

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