

Berwick-upon-Tweed Barracks and Main Guard, Northumberland

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 as well as following any staff instructions and being mindful of temporary barriers and signage, please remain vigilant at all times. 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.

Moving vehicles may pose a hazard upon arrival and while on the site.

- There is a public car park 50 metres from the entrance to the barracks.
- Drop-off for coaches is The Parade, which may require groups to cross a road or negotiate parked cars.

The historic nature of the barracks presents potential hazards.

- The main site entrance is a small, enclosed space with a cobbled floor.
- There are guttering channels around the edges of the main courtyard, which may be a trip or slip hazard.
- Access to the 'By the Beat of the Drum' exhibition is up a flight of stairs and a further flight of stairs to the first floor. There is one entrance and one exit following a prescribed route.
- Thresholds between rooms in the exhibition spaces may be raised or uneven.

Asbestos has been identified on the site. This is common with older buildings and some historic artefacts and is being managed and monitored by English Heritage.

- These areas and objects are clearly marked with red 'a' stickers.
- No activities that may disturb the asbestos are permitted; please raise any concerns or accidental damage with the Site Manager immediately.

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.

Please note: this information refers only to the parts of the barracks under direct management of English Heritage. Teachers and group leaders may need to make their own arrangements when visiting the Kings Own Scottish Borderers Museum and the Berwick Museum and Art Museum when these sites are open to the public. The Gymnasium Galley is an exhibition space with temporary art exhibitions arranged by Berwick Visual Arts, in conjunction with The Maltings Theatre. Owing to the temporary nature of the exhibits and necessary environmental conditions as well as the fact that the gallery is only open for part of the year, information cannot be given in advance. Teachers and group leaders intending to visit an exhibition are advised to make a planning visit in order to identify hazards.