

BIRDOSWALD ROMAN FORT, CUMBRIA

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. Make sure you wear sensible footwear and dress appropriately 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, storm damage can sometimes affect the stability of stonework and branches of apparently healthy trees. 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.

COVID-19 INFORMATION

We want to reassure you that we're following government guidance to make your trip as safe and enjoyable as possible.

We've introduced a range of new hygiene standards and social distancing measures. Our staff and facilitators have received guidance to help them safely run education visits at this time, and we've also created a general risk assessment for education visitors to help you with your individual risk assessments. You can find this and other information about what to expect on your visit at: [english-heritage.org.uk/schools-what-to-expect](https://www.english-heritage.org.uk/schools-what-to-expect)

We've also detailed key changes on the individual site schools pages of our website, so please check before you visit. Once your booking is confirmed, we recommend booking a free planning visit to help you prepare for your trip and familiarise yourself with the site.

Moving vehicles may pose a hazard upon arrival.

- There is a public car and coach park 150 metres from the entrance to the site.
- Access to the site is uphill via a footpath and beside a road.
- If arriving from the west there is a drop off point opposite the site entrance; groups will have to cross the road to enter. The adjacent road can be very busy.
- Grounds maintenance teams may use vehicles throughout the grounds.

The historic nature of the site may present potential hazards, including uneven and slippery surfaces.

- The entrance to the main museum and fort is via a cobbled courtyard, which is uneven underfoot and can be slippery during and after wet weather.

The ruinous nature of the fort presents many potential hazards, including uneven surfaces, drops and low masonry.

- The excavated area of the fort has gravelled pathways and uneven stonework which can be slippery during and after wet conditions.
- There is low masonry around the site.
- Climbing on the walls is not permitted and poses a significant hazard.
- The ground within the fort is undulating and grassed. This can be slippery and muddy during and after wet weather.
- The viewpoint is unfenced and has a sheer drop at the south end which is not immediately obvious.

Birdoswald Roman Fort is home to a wide variety of wildlife.

- There is the possible presence of livestock grazing on site.
- Animals may bite or kick and should not be approached.
- As well as livestock there are other animals and birds on site and their droppings can present a zoonotic hazard. Children should be reminded to wash their hands prior to eating.

Asbestos has been identified on the site this is being managed and monitored by English Heritage.

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