

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. 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.

- 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.

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

The ruinous nature of the fort presents many potential hazards.

- The excavated area of the fort has gravelled pathways and uneven stonework which can be slippery during and after wet weather.
- 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.

There are learning resources that can be used by groups on-site, including handling collections.

- The objects in the handling collection may have rough edges, points or protrusions.
- Learners must be supervised at all times by Leaders while using the resources.
- The objects may have been handled by multiple groups; always wash hands after use.

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. Visitors should wash their hands prior to eating.

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.