

BOSCOBEL HOUSE AND THE ROYAL OAK, SHROPSHIRE

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'll 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.

The car and coach park is adjacent to the site.

- There is no designated footpath through the car park.

The historic nature of the site presents potential hazards.

- The walls are rough and may contain sharp stones.
- There are climbing hazards on walls and fences. Climbing is not permitted in any area.
- The site is exposed to the elements with some areas of sheltered space.
- The indoor spaces of the farmhouse and barn have low light levels.

There are areas of uneven surfaces around the property.

- Ground surfaces are uneven throughout the site and can be slippery when wet.
- There are loose carpets and uneven floorboards around the farmhouse.
- There are worn cobbled and flagstone floors in the ground floor rooms.
- The barns and cowsheds have uneven brick tiled floors.
- There may be concealed animal holes in grassy areas.

There are a number of steps and staircases on the site.

- There are a number of steep wooden staircases in the farmhouse.
- There is a narrow, spiral staircase leading to the attic area with a rope bannister.
- There are steep, narrow and uneven steps to the Acorn Learning Room; this is an exterior staircase and has a sheer drop from the top landing, guarded with a railing.

The farmyard contains historic and active farm machinery that presents potential hazards.

- Some of the farm machinery has sharp edges.
- Some of the farm machinery has spikes or protrusions.
- Some of the farm machinery has rusty or greasy surfaces.

There is open access to water on the site.

- There is a deep, unfenced pond at the back of the car park.
- Plants and pond weed may obscure the water's edge.

There is livestock on site.

- Animals may bite or kick; please do not reach out to touch them.
- Animal droppings may present a zoonotic hazard; always wash hands prior to eating meals.

The play area has high platforms and swinging apparatus.

- Children must be supervised by a responsible adult at all times.