

## **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 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 remain vigilant at all times. Please follow any staff instructions and be mindful of temporary barriers and signage. 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.

#### **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 barns have low light levels.

#### **There are 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 are protruding trap door catches on the education room floor.
- 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 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 and birds may bite or kick; please do not reach out to touch them.
- Animal droppings may present a zoonotic hazard. Visitors should wash hands prior to eating meals.

**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.

**There are various plants in the garden; some may pose a hazard.**

- Plant material and thorns may be toxic or poisonous; always wash hands prior to eating meals.
- There may be edible plants and crops in the garden; these should not be picked and eaten.

**There is a play area is situated behind the café area. Children must be supervised by a responsible adult at all times.**

- There are high platforms and unguarded drops on some apparatus.
- There are short vertical ladders with no guards.
- There is some swinging and suspended apparatus with possible pinch points.
- The play equipment has an age limit of 12 years old.
- It is the responsibility of teachers and group leaders to supervise their groups when using the playground.
- Surfaces may become slippery in wet weather.
- The structures are made of wood which may crack or splinter.

**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.