

Brinkburn Priory, 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 and coach park 400 metres from the entrance to the site. The single track road to the priory is also used by site traffic.
- Grounds maintenance teams may use vehicles throughout the grounds and gardens.

The historic nature of the site presents many potential hazards.

- The ground surfaces around the site are a mixture of gravel, grass and paving, all of which may be slippery during and after wet conditions.
- Climbing on the walls is not permitted and poses a significant hazard.
- The ground behind the priory is undulating and steep in places.
- There are different floor levels throughout the priory with some short, unguarded drops at the east end of the church.
- Some grave slabs embedded in the chancel floor of the priory are slightly raised and may be a trip hazard.
- Many rooms in the manor house have limited lighting. Time should be allowed to adjust to the lighting levels.
- There are steep steps to the basement of the manor house. Groups must be supervised at all times when using them.
- Changes of floor levels exist throughout the manor house building.

Brinkburn Priory is home to a wide variety of wildlife.

- There are animals and birds on site and their droppings can present a zoonotic hazard. Visitors should be reminded to wash their hands prior to eating.
- Mole activity in the grounds can cause depressions in the surface.

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.