

Brougham Castle, 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 and while on the site.

- Parking is on a B-road, which runs along the approach to the site. Supervision is needed when crossing the road.
- Grounds maintenance teams may use vehicles throughout the grounds.

The ruinous nature of the castle presents many potential hazards.

- Floor surfaces around the site can be uneven, particularly the cobbled area near the gatehouse.
- Exposed ground can be wet and slippery.
- There are old, uneven steps and staircases throughout.
- Walls are rough and contain uneven and often sharp stones.
- There is low masonry around the site.
- Climbing on the walls is not permitted and poses a significant hazard.
- Ceilings and some doorways are low.
- Lighting levels vary throughout. Time should be given to allow eyesight to adjust to these levels.
- There is a steep, narrow, spiral staircase to the top of the keep with uneven steps up four storeys.
- There is a sheer drop into the keep basement.
- Railings separate visitors from the moat, which must not be climbed on.

Brougham Castle is home to a wide variety of flora and fauna

- There are animals and birds on site, and their droppings can present a zoonotic hazard. Visitors are advised to wash hands prior to eating.
- Livestock often graze around the site.

- There is a risk of tick bites (especially between April – June) long sleeved tops and long trousers are recommended and visitors should check areas of exposed skin after visit.
- Please take care around trees – they are inspected regularly but can drop limbs due to dry weather conditions or pest damage.