

CARLISLE 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. 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

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.

Moving vehicles may pose a hazard upon arrival and while on the site.

- There is a public car and coach park on Devonshire Walk. Groups will have to walk from here to the site beside a busy main road.
- The narrow approach road to the castle entrance is used by authorised vehicles.
- Grounds maintenance teams may use vehicles throughout the grounds.

The historic nature of the castle presents many potential hazards, including uneven surfaces, low masonry and stairs.

- The floor surfaces are often uneven, and 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.
- Some buildings contain spiral and steep, narrow staircases. Students should ascend/descend in single file under careful supervision, holding the handrail while doing so.
- The approach to the keep passes over a small, wooden walkway. Groups should be supervised while crossing.
- The lighting levels vary from area to area. Groups should allow time for their eyes to adjust.

The wall walk and moat may pose possible hazards, including steep points and exposed areas.

- The castle's high situation means it can be exposed and windy along the wall walk. Groups should be supervised at all times.
- The moat is steep. It is protected by rails and a wall at its steepest point. Climbing is not permitted.

Carlisle Castle is home to a variety of wildlife.

- There are animals and birds on site and their droppings can present a zoonotic hazard.
- Children should be reminded to wash their hands prior to eating.

Asbestos has been identified on the site this is being managed and monitored by English Heritage.

- These areas are clearly marked with red stickers.
- No activities that may disturb the asbestos are permitted; please raise any concerns or accidental damage with the Site Manager immediately.