

## CLEEVE ABBEY, SOMERSET

### 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://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 situated offsite, down a minor road.**

- It is necessary to cross and walk along a narrow road with no pavement to get to the site entrance; hedges and a bend in the road limit visibility.
- There is no footpath to the site. The access track is shared by both pedestrians and vehicles.

**The historic nature of the site presents potential hazards.**

- The walls are rough and may contain sharp stones.
- There are many climbing hazards; climbing is not permitted and poses a significant hazard.
- The site is exposed to the elements; there are some sheltered and indoor spaces on site.

**There are large areas of uneven surfaces and remaining stone foundations around the site.**

- Ground surfaces are uneven throughout the site and can be slippery when wet.
- There are worn cobbled and flagstone floors in the ground floor rooms of the buildings.
- There are few defined paths on the property and through the remaining abbey foundations.
- There may be concealed animal holes in grassy areas.

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

- There are worn, spiral, stone day stairs and refectory stairs leading off the Cloister.
- There are wooden stairs leading to the Upper Chamber and Farmhouse Range.

There are high walls with sheer drops at Cleeve Abbey.

- There are high balconies with banisters in the Upper Chamber and Farmhouse Range.

There is open access to water on site.

- A stream with unprotected banks runs through the site. The banks may be concealed by plants and grasses.
- There is a river running alongside the site.
- It is necessary to cross a low-sided bridge, over the river, to access the site entrance.

There are some areas with low headroom.

- There are low doorways and there is limited headroom in some of the abbey buildings.