

CLIFFORD'S TOWER, YORK

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

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 entrance to Clifford's Tower is up a narrow steep stairs.

- There are 55 steep steps leading up to the tower with a central hand rail. Groups should go up on one side only, leaving space for other visitors to walk down.
- The entrance/exit point for the Tower is very narrow and directly at the top of the access steps, therefore we recommend that groups do not congregate here. Groups should proceed directly into the Tower or wait at the bottom of the steps if necessary.

The ruinous nature of the site may present many potential hazards.

- The floor surfaces are uneven throughout. There are old, uneven steps and staircases and walls are rough and contain uneven and often sharp stones.
- Climbing on banks and walls is forbidden.
- Steep stone spiral staircases are the means of access to the top of the tower. Warning signs are in place.
- The open access roof is accessible via the gantries; students should be supervised using these. In the centre of the roof there is an internal viewing point. We ask all groups to be closely supervised when using this opening to view the internal structure of the tower.

Clifford's Tower is home to a wide 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.