

CLIFFORD'S TOWER, YORK

Hazard information for educational 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.

The entrance to Clifford's Tower is by narrow, steep stairs.

- There are many very steep steps leading up to the tower. There is a handrail and rest points but please be aware that there is no disabled access. 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. The tour leader will be directed to the kiosk at the top of the steps to book the group in, staff will then allow the group to make their way up the steps.
- Once inside there are a series of metal steps and walkways leading to upper floors. These may prove slippery when wet.
- Steps and walkways are narrow so students should remain in single file to allow other visitors to pass.
- Running inside the tower is not permitted and **groups must be supervised at all times – especially on the roof area.**
- There are stone spiral staircases, which are uneven, leading to the roof space. These can be slippery when it is raining, and they are narrow.
- There is a large wooden viewing platform at the top, which may become slippery when wet. Running is not permitted anywhere in the tower. **Groups must be closely supervised whilst here.**
- The viewing platform has a central viewing area to look down to the ground floor. This has a wooden barrier approximately 90cms high (about chest height). Groups must be supervised closely in this area.
- There is a metal fence around the top of the viewing platform – approx. 90cms high (approx. chest height). Groups must be supervised whilst here to make sure no one tries to climb over.
- Access to the chapel is narrow and also where two staircases join so care is needed when entering.
- We only allow groups of up to 35 (including leaders), this is to reduce the noise levels as other visitors will be listening to soundscapes within the tower.
- Please arrive at your allocated time and be aware that staff may need to request you wait at the base for a short period of time should we be at full capacity on arrival.

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

- Some floor surfaces are uneven. There are old, uneven steps and staircases and walls are rough and contain uneven and often sharp stones.
- Climbing on banks and walls inside and outside the tower is forbidden.

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. Visitors should be reminded to wash their hands prior to eating.
- There may be pigeons flying inside the tower.

Visitors to the tower.

- The tower is open to members of the public. Please be respectful of other visitors.

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.