

CLIFFORD'S TOWER, YORK

Hazard information sheet for educational groups

It is the responsibility of teachers and group leaders to complete a risk assessment prior to any site visit being made. This is a requirement of most local education authorities. The following information is intended as a preparatory tool and does not replace a teacher's or group leader's own risk assessment. Please be aware that conditions at historic sites may change rapidly, and that you will need to remain alert at all times during your visit.

Please do not ask our staff to fill in, check, or sign any sections of your risk assessment, as they have no responsibility to do so.

Dropping off: There are various public car parks within the city. The nearest Coach parking is located at St Georges field a 10 minute walk from the site. For more information please visit: <http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/cliffords-tower-york/plan-your-visit/>

Entrance: 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.

Tower site: The ruinous nature of the tower presents many climbing 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. Sensible footwear and outdoor clothing are necessary. Climbing on banks and walls is forbidden as they are extremely steep.

Steep stone spiral staircases are the means of access to the top of the tower. Warning signs are in place. The narrow wall-walk around the top of the tower can only be approached via the stone spiral staircases and a one-way system (signed) is in operation. It is very exposed. We recommend a maximum group size of 20 people on the wall walk.

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

Toilets: It should be noted that there are no toilet facilities at Clifford's Tower although there are public toilets located in the Coppergate shopping area (approximately 5 minutes walk from the tower). These are public toilets and there is a small chargeable fee please be aware that children should be supervised when using them.

Ongoing conservation or maintenance work on site may cause additional temporary hazards. A member of the Visitor Operations Team will advise you of these when you make your planning visit and on the day of your group's visit.

If you would like this document in a different format, please contact our Customer Services department:

Telephone: 0370 333 1181

E-mail: customers@english-heritage.org.uk