

Conisbrough Castle, South Yorkshire

Risk Assessment for Discovery Visit Session

Activity: Tales from the Keep, Key Stages 1–3
 Duration: 60 minutes
 Created: 1 September 2025
 Review date: 1 September 2026
 Prepared by: Education Visits Officer (Yorkshire and North Midlands)

Description and Notes

This risk assessment covers the Tales from the Keep Discovery Visit from when the group meets the facilitator, to the time when the session ends. It does not cover the walk from the coach/car park to the site or any aspect of your visit outside of the Discovery Visit. This information can be found in the Hazard Information on our [Schools page](#).

The session takes place in the castle bailey (no cover) and the castle keep. It involves independent fact finding and object handling.

Hazard	Who is at risk?	Control measures	Risk after controls $C \times L = R$		
Delivery and collection vehicles arriving on site near the visitor centre.	Leaders, students, EH staff, volunteers	Students are warned of the dangers of vehicle movement and should treat the crossing as a road. EH staff and leaders watch out for vehicles.	3	1	3
Trips, slips and falls on grass banks, uneven paths, low stone foundations and castle entrance.	Leaders, students, EH staff, volunteers	Extra care to be taken in wet and/or windy weather. Verbal warnings are given to groups as appropriate. Leaders and facilitators monitor throughout the session. Staff will have had necessary training to identify risks and inform groups of potential hazards. Leaders are instructed regarding this hazard condition prior to visit. Students are supervised at all times.	2	1	2
Trip and fall hazard on uneven surfaces around the site, on the keep stairs and wooden floors in the keep.	Leaders, students, EH staff, volunteers	Students are supervised at all times and instructed to use the handrail when using the stairs and to be in single file	3	1	3
Bulky school bags being carried around the keep can cause falls and over-balancing on stairs.	Leaders, students, EH staff, volunteers	EH staff members indicate a safe area where bags may be left in the visitor centre. Students and leaders are advised before the visit that bags will be left unattended.	2	1	2
Low light levels inside the keep requiring time for eyes to adjust when entering from outside at entrance to keep and from roof area.	Leaders, students, EH staff	Escorted groups are given time to allow their eyes to adjust to varying light levels. Leaders and facilitators monitor throughout the session.	2	1	2

Occasional/seasonal high winds at the top of the keep.	Leaders, students, EH staff	EH staff members advise on the day if the risk increases and restrict access to the top of the keep if necessary.	3	1	3
Zootrophic hazards due to pigeons in the keep.	Leaders, students, EH staff	Visitors advised to wash hands before eating. Hand sanitizer available in main building.	3	1	3

Risk Assessments for Discovery Visits

Risk = consequence x likelihood in the context of a task i.e. when undertaking this task how bad could it be if it went wrong (almost regardless of whether it would) and what are the chances of it going wrong. They are both qualitative judgements based on objective data.

The Consequence Evaluation

The data you need to evaluate consequence (in the context of the task) are:

- Hazard - the thing with the potential to cause harm.

Consequence is graded on the three point scale where:

- 3 is death or life changing injuries
- 1 is first aid treatable injuries
- 2 is everything else.

The Likelihood Evaluation

Local knowledge/information will help judge the chances of the accident happening. It will include things like:

- Frequency and duration
- Numbers of people, vulnerable people
- The environment the activity is carried out in e.g. inside/outside, time of day, weather, distractions
- Accident/incident history
- Controls/supervision
- The equipment involved and its level of maintenance
- Anything else relevant to the likelihood evaluation.

It is not necessary to try to collect every piece of data that might have an effect on the likelihood; we just need to collect the most important pieces of data.

Likelihood is graded on the English Heritage three point scale where:

- 3 is almost certain to occur
- 1 means we would be surprised if the accident happened
- 2 is everything else.

Risk

Risk is calculated by multiplying the consequence rating by the likelihood rating giving potential risk ratings of:

- High (6 and 9)
- Medium (3 and 4)
- Low (1 and 2).