

DOVER CASTLE, KENT

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://www.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.

Moving vehicles may pose a hazard upon arrival and while on the site.

- There is parking in a public coach park 200m away from the site.
- It is necessary to cross and walk along a busy road to reach the site entrance; there is a pavement.
- There is parking on site for minibuses.
- There is vehicle movement around the site; 10 miles per hour speed limit.

The walking surfaces may be uneven and change in level; please use designated walkways wherever possible.

- All surfaces may be slippery when wet.
- Steps may be worn and uneven; single steps may pose a trip hazard.
- Be aware of animal holes in grassed areas.
- Wooden ramps and bridges on site may be slippery.

The construction of the site provides numerous climbing hazards; climbing on walls or over/under barriers is not permitted.

- Walls are rough and may contain sharp stones.
- Guns around the site must not be climbed.
- Climbing any of the trees or banks on site is strictly forbidden.

There are high walls and sheer drops on site, some of which are unguarded.

- The outer battlements are accessible but care should be taken and only the pathways used.
- There are steep grass banks around the entire site.
- There is a low rail on the viewing platform of the Fire Command Post.
- There is a low wall around the Roman Pharos and the Anglo Saxon Church.

Staircase treads may be worn and uneven; always use the handrail where provided.

- Steps may be slippery when wet or icy.
- There are spiral staircases in the Keep and steps between levels.
- A wooden staircase leads from the Medieval Underground Works to King's Gate.
- There is a metal staircase to the viewing platform at the Fire Command Post.

There are areas of low lighting in the Secret Wartime Tunnels; please take care when moving around.

- Entry to the Secret Wartime Tunnels is by pre-booked guided tour only, subject to availability.
- Surfaces are uneven and sometimes slippery.
- It is important to follow safety instructions from the tour guide.

There are areas of low lighting in the Medieval Underground Works; please take care when moving around.

- Entry to the Medieval Underground Works is free-flow and the area is not manned.
- Surfaces are uneven and sometimes slippery.

Handling objects could cause injury if they are misused.

- There are a variety of interactive objects around the site.
- There are handling objects in the Education Room, which must be pre-booked.
- There is a handling collection in the Fire Command Post, which must be pre-booked.

Grazing livestock may be present on site.

- All animals may bite and/or kick; only approach them if advised it is safe to do so.
- There may be a risk of zoonotic infection; ensure students wash their hands after contact with animals.

The site can be very busy and some areas may become congested.

- Care should be taken on the staircases in the Great Tower.
- Some areas of the site may be closed in adverse weather conditions.