

Eltham Palace and Gardens, Greenwich

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 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.

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

- There is a car park on site. Please be aware of hazards in the car park, fast moving cars and delivery vehicles manoeuvring.

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

- There are uneven surfaces throughout the house and gardens. Some areas have loose gravel surfaces and there may be potholes and various trip hazards around the site.
- Some surfaces may be slippery when wet.
- For conservation and safety reasons shoes with stiletto heels are unsuitable for a visit to this property.

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

- During wet weather, the paths and steps may become slippery.
- The steps leading down to the moat are quite steep.
- Many stairs and steps within the house are uneven in width.

There are a number of hazards within the house related to historic features and conservation.

- On rainy days, you will be provided with protective shoe covers which must be worn inside the house.
- There is a large porthole in the wall halfway up the main staircase. There is a 2-metre unprotected drop on the other side of this feature.
- Several areas are roped off to visitors, for visitors' safety and the safety of the collection. Please ensure that you do not cross the rope barriers or pull on the rope.
- Any bags must be carried or worn on the front or left in a locker to avoid accidental damage inside the house.

There are various hazards within the restored garden, including water features and climbing hazards.

- There are a number of water features (a moat, a pond, and a well) in the garden. The edges of some of these are indeterminate and not fenced, these areas may be slippery or muddy.

- The well is very deep (over 3 metres); there is a metal grille over the top.
- Please do not climb on any of the walls or trees.
- Please note that there are steep drops from the terraces, walls, and bridges, especially in the South Garden.