

Goodrich Castle, Herefordshire

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 remain vigilant at all times. Please follow any staff instructions and be mindful of temporary barriers and signage. 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 car and coach park is adjacent to the entrance.

- The car park is very busy with cars, coaches and bicycles.
- There is no designated footpath across the car park.
- Steps lead from the car park to the entrance. There is an alternative step free access around the café garden.

The historic nature of the castle presents many potential hazards.

- The castle walls are rough and may contain sharp stones.
- There are many climbing hazards. Climbing is not permitted and poses a significant hazard.
- The site is exposed to the elements with few sheltered or indoor spaces; there is no indoor lunch space.

There are large areas of uneven surfaces.

- Ground surfaces are uneven throughout and can be slippery when wet.
- Several inches of water may cover the dungeon floor and the bases of the towers at any time of year.
- There are remaining stone foundations in many parts of the castle.
- Gravel areas and loose stone can be a skid hazard.

There are natural hazards and steep banks and inclines on much of the site.

- There are steep, rocky and grassed banks in the dry moat.
- The site is surrounded by steep banks leading down to a river.
- There are mature trees on site; trees should not be climbed.
- There may be exposed tree roots, and fallen leaves and branches around the site.
- There are mature trees on site that may drop branches in rare circumstances; care should be taken when passing under or near large trees.

There are high walls and sheer drops around the site.

- There are low, unfenced walls at the top of the keep overlooking the moat and courtyard.
- The East Range walkways are narrow with low arrow slits positioned over a steep drop to the moat.

- There are sheer drops from the barbican and entry bridge into the dry moat; there are fences and handrails, these should not be climbed on or over.
- There are sheer drops near the stables; there is a drop down to the outer ward on the west and north sides.

There are a number of steps and staircases on the site.

- There are worn stone spiral staircases with rope handrails in the keep and leading to the East Range wall walk.
- A wooden staircase with open treads leads part way up the keep.
- Steep stone steps lead down to the moat and into the dungeon, and up to the gatehouse and various castle rooms.
- Staircases can be dark and uneven.
- The stone staircases have steps of differing heights which can be a significant trip hazard.

There are some areas with restricted space.

- Some spaces have limited headroom and low light.
- Some doorways and ceilings have low headroom.