

KENILWORTH CASTLE AND ELIZABETHAN GARDEN, WARWICKSHIRE

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

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.

The car and coach park is situated opposite the main site entrance.

- Access to the site from the car park is across a minor road.
- There is some vehicle movement around the site. There is a speed limit of 5 miles per hour.

The ruinous nature of the castle presents many potential hazards.

- There are many climbing hazards. Climbing on the walls is not permitted and poses a significant hazard.
- The walls are rough and may contain sharp stones.
- The site is exposed to the elements.
- The site is mainly outdoors with limited indoor and sheltered areas.

There are large areas of uneven surfaces.

- Ground surfaces are uneven throughout and can be slippery when wet.
- There are gravel paths around the site, although it is necessary to use grassed areas to access the entire site.
- There are remaining stone foundations in the inner and the outer court.

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

- There are steep, grassed banks throughout the site including deep dips, which may be concealed.
- The Tiltyard has steep banks leading down to a stream.
- The Kings Mound has a steep and worn path. There is an alternative route around the castle.

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

- There are low, unfenced windows in the Keep and the castle towers.
- There are narrow walkways and viewing platforms, often positioned over steep drops.
- The viewing platforms in Leicester's Building reach a height of 18 metres.

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

- There are worn stone spiral staircases which are unlit and may have uneven treads.
- There are some staircases with no handrails.
- Stone steps may be narrow and uneven. Single steps may pose a trip hazard.
- Wooden stairways are steep and can be slippery when wet.

There are various plants in the garden and birds in the aviary.

- Plant material and thorns may be toxic or poisonous.
- Birds may bite; please do not put fingers through the cage.
- Bird droppings may present a zoonotic hazard; always wash hands prior to eating meals.