



ENGLISH HERITAGE
EDUCATION

KS1–2

KS3

KS4+

DISCOVERY VISIT GUIDE

Kenilworth Castle and Elizabethan Garden

This guide provides teachers with everything they need to know about our expert-led Discovery Visits at Kenilworth Castle. With something for every key stage, our hands-on sessions are a great way to bring history to life and support your teaching for KS1–4.

GET IN TOUCH WITH OUR EDUCATION
BOOKINGS TEAM:

☎ 0370 333 0606

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📄 bookings.english-heritage.org.uk/education

Share your visit with us on Twitter [@EHEducation](https://twitter.com/EHEducation)



Step into England's story

WELCOME

This guide for Kenilworth Castle and Elizabethan Garden has been designed to support teachers and group leaders on a Discovery Visit at the site. We know that each class and study group is different, so we have collated all the information into one guide so you can prepare for your upcoming Discovery Visit.

For practical information and activity ideas to help support a free self-led visit, **download the Teachers' Kit** on our **Schools page**.

We hope you enjoy your visit and that you find this Discovery Visit Guide useful. If you have any queries please don't hesitate to get in touch with a member of our team either via bookeducation@english-heritage.org.uk or on 0370 666 0303.

English Heritage Learning Team

ICON KEY

The icons below will help you quickly identify which key stage each Discovery Visit is for.



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SUMMARY

LIFE IN A CASTLE

KS1–2

Recommended for

KS1–2 (History, Geography, Drama)

Learning objectives

WHAT: Understand that we can use historical buildings to find out about life in the past. Identify key people and events associated with Kenilworth Castle. Notice some similarities and differences between ways of life in different time periods.

HOW: Explore the castle and investigate objects to find evidence that it was once a strong fortress and eventually became a luxurious palace.

OUTCOME: Develop a greater awareness of the past, using physical evidence to show understanding of what life was like at Kenilworth Castle.

Duration

75–90 minutes

DISCOVERY VISITS AT ENGLISH HERITAGE

Our Discovery Visits are award-winning, hands-on, expert-led, site-based activities, which combine inspiring experiences with quality learning outside the classroom. At just £100 a session at selected sites, these visits are delivered by our experts and have been designed to meet the needs of different groups across the key stages. Led by specialist educators, site staff and volunteers, with knowledge and expertise across the curriculum, these visits enable students of all ages and abilities to step into England's story.

LIFE IN A CASTLE DISCOVERY VISIT

What was life like for the people who lived and worked at Kenilworth Castle? Find out by taking part in an interactive tour of the buildings, taking on the role of history detectives on a mission to gather evidence about the past. Work out how each part of the castle was used by exploring curious architectural details, taking part in imaginative role play and looking closely at historical objects. This Discovery Visit is excellent value for a class of up to 30 students.

To **see this Discovery Visit** in action, watch our YouTube video: <https://youtu.be/PP3a8zIz9XU>

BEFORE YOUR VISIT

We recommend you do the following before the Discovery Visit:

- Use the Historical Information, Timeline and Glossary resources in the Teachers' Kit (on our **Schools page**) to introduce students to the history of the castle.
- Use the pre-visit activity in the Teachers' Kit called 'Why Build Here?' to discuss how geography played an important part in the building of Kenilworth Castle.



Key Stage 1 students taking part in the Life in a Castle Discovery Visit.

RISK ASSESSMENT

LIFE IN A CASTLE

ACTIVITY: Life in a Castle Discovery Visit

SITE: Kenilworth Castle and Elizabethan Garden, Warwickshire

DATE UPDATED: April 2019

REVIEW DATE: April 2020

PREPARED BY: Education Visits Officer (West)

DESCRIPTION AND NOTES

This risk assessment covers the Life in a Castle Discovery Visit from when the group meets their guide to the time when the session ends. It does not replace a visiting group's own risk assessment. It is the responsibility of the group leader to complete the risk assessment for their group, warn of potential hazards and check with the local authority about insurance and health and safety requirements. Details of free planning visits for organisers can be found in the terms and conditions sent with the booking confirmation.

This risk assessment does not cover the walk from the coach/car park to Leicester's Gatehouse. Information relating to other areas of the site can be found in the Hazard Information in the Teachers' Kit on our **Schools page**.

The activity consists of a 75-90 minute interactive walking tour of Kenilworth Castle, delivered by English Heritage facilitators. During this time the students will have the opportunity to explore the features of the site and look at replica artefacts.

Hazard	To whom	Initial Risk $S \times L = R$			Control Measures	Risk after Controls $S \times L = R$		
Uneven paths and ground with low stone foundations.	Adults, students, staff	4	4	16	Students will be advised of this hazard prior to beginning the session and must be supervised at all times by accompanying adults. Running on site will not be permitted and extra care will be taken in wet and/or windy weather. Verbal warnings of particular hazards will be given during the session and movement on site will follow designated paths wherever possible.	4	1	4

Continued...

High walls and sheer drops.	Adults, students, staff	5	2	10	Students will be advised of this hazard prior to beginning the session and must be supervised at all times by accompanying adults. Students and adults will be reminded again by site staff in areas where there are unguarded steep drops. Climbing on walls and over barriers will not be permitted.	5	1	5
Steep steps and stairs.	Adults, students, staff	4	2	8	Students will be advised of this hazard prior to beginning the session and must be supervised at all times by accompanying adults. Use handrails on stairs where provided.	4	1	4
Handling objects and artefacts.	Adults, students, staff	4	2	8	Specific guidance given for handling objects, always under adult supervision.	4	1	4
Animal faeces.	Adults, students, staff	3	2	6	Wash hands before eating to prevent ingesting bacteria. Site staff will check site for dog faeces and clear away before opening the site.	5	1	5
Bites and stings.	Adults, students, staff	5	2	10	Accompanying adults will carry necessary medication for any students with allergies. Site staff will be aware of any insect nests on site and ensure the group keep clear.	5	1	5
Severe/adverse weather.	Adults, students, staff	5	2	10	Site staff will advise of risks on the day and restrict access to areas of the site or whole site as necessary.	5	1	5
Falling masonry.	Adults, students, staff	6	2	12	Site staff will check site for fallen masonry and/or tree branches and secure the area before opening the site. Regular checking and maintenance of the site by staff.	6	1	6

Risk assessment score overall (average after risk controls) = 4.6

SUMMARY

MEDIEVAL CASTLE QUEST

KS2

KS3

Recommended for

KS2 and KS3 (History, Geography)

Learning objectives

WHAT: Investigate Kenilworth Castle's medieval architecture and learn about the history of attack and defence at medieval Kenilworth.

HOW: Gather clues around the castle on a quest to find out how it was used in medieval times. Explore the defensive architecture and tactics of the medieval period.

OUTCOME: Discover and identify key defensive and domestic features at Kenilworth. Imagine what it was like to prepare for a medieval siege. Develop skills of historical enquiry, observation and inference.

Duration

75–90 minutes



Key Stage 2 students being taught about medieval life by an English Heritage expert.

DISCOVERY VISITS AT ENGLISH HERITAGE

Our Discovery Visits are award-winning, hands-on, expert-led, site-based activities, which combine inspiring experiences with quality learning outside the classroom. At just £100 a session at selected sites, these visits are delivered by our experts and have been designed to meet the needs of different groups across the key stages. Led by specialist educators, site staff and volunteers, with knowledge and expertise across the curriculum, these visits enable students of all ages and abilities to step into England's story.

MEDIEVAL CASTLE QUEST DISCOVERY VISIT

Studying attack and defence in the medieval period? Let us help you with this interactive session, perfect for a class of up to 30 students. Led by one of our experts, go on a quest to discover how the buildings and people worked together to defend against attack during a medieval siege. Work in teams as you explore the castle and replica objects, completing hands-on challenges to answer questions about attack and defence in the medieval period.

You can choose to extend this Discovery Visit so your class can enjoy a full day of expert-led activities. The longer session explores the story of the great siege of 1266 in depth, on the spot where it happened. Find out more about the extended Discovery Visit on **page 9**.

BEFORE YOUR VISIT

We recommend you do the following before the Discovery Visit:

- Divide your class into six groups. The session leader will ask you to help sort the class into these groups at the beginning of the Discovery Visit.
- Use the information and activities in the Teachers' Kit (on our **Schools page**) to introduce students to the history of Kenilworth Castle.
- Check students' understanding of key terminology related to attack and defence in the medieval period, e.g. siege, keep, bailey, curtain wall, gatehouse, trebuchet.

RISK ASSESSMENT

MEDIEVAL CASTLE QUEST

ACTIVITY: Medieval Castle Quest Discovery Visit
SITE: Kenilworth Castle and Elizabethan Garden, Warwickshire
DATE UPDATED: April 2019
REVIEW DATE: April 2020
PREPARED BY: Education Visits Officer (West)

DESCRIPTION AND NOTES

This risk assessment covers the Medieval Castle Quest Discovery Visit from when the group meets their guide to the time when the session ends. It does not replace a visiting group's own risk assessment. It is the responsibility of the group leader to complete the risk assessment for their group, warn of potential hazards and check with the local authority about insurance and health and safety requirements. Details of free planning visits for organisers can be found in the terms and conditions sent with the booking confirmation.

This risk assessment does not cover the walk from the coach/car park to Leicester's Gatehouse. Information relating to other areas of the site can be found in the Hazard Information in the Teachers' Kit on our **Schools page**.

The activity consists of a 75-90 minute interactive session, delivered by English Heritage facilitators. During this time the students will have the opportunity to explore the features of the site, take part in hands-on activities and look at replica artefacts.

Hazard	To whom	Initial Risk $S \times L = R$			Control Measures	Risk after Controls $S \times L = R$		
Uneven paths and ground with low stone foundations.	Adults, students, staff	4	4	16	Students will be advised of this hazard prior to beginning the session and must be supervised at all times by accompanying adults. Running on site will not be permitted and extra care will be taken in wet and/or windy weather. Verbal warnings of hazards will be given during the session and movement on site will follow designated paths wherever possible.	4	1	4

Continued...

High walls and sheer drops.	Adults, students, staff	5	2	10	Students will be advised of this hazard prior to beginning the session and must be supervised at all times by accompanying adults. Students and adults will be reminded again by site staff in areas where there are unguarded steep drops. Climbing on walls and over barriers will not be permitted.	5	1	5
Steep pathways, steps and stairs.	Adults, students, staff	4	2	8	Students will be advised of this hazard prior to beginning the session and must be supervised at all times by accompanying adults. Use handrails on stairs where provided.	4	1	4
Handling objects and artefacts.	Adults, students, staff	3	2	6	Students to be under adult supervision when studying the objects and given instruction if the object is sharp or heavy. Students are sitting down or standing still while handling the objects.	3	1	3
Animal faeces.	Adults, students, staff	3	2	6	Wash hands before eating to prevent ingesting bacteria. Site staff will check site for dog faeces and clear away before opening the site.	3	1	3
Bites and stings.	Adults, students, staff	5	2	10	Accompanying adults will carry necessary medication for any students with allergies. Site staff will be aware of any insect nests on site and ensure the group keep clear.	5	1	5
Severe/adverse weather.	Adults, students, staff	5	2	10	Site staff will advise of risks on the day and restrict access to areas of the site or whole site as necessary.	5	1	5
Falling masonry and/or tree branches.	Adults, students, staff	6	2	12	Site staff will check site for fallen masonry and/or tree branches and secure the area before opening the site. Regular checking and maintenance of the site by staff.	6	1	6

Risk assessment score overall (average after risk controls) = 4.4

SUMMARY

MEDIEVAL SIEGE EXPERIENCE

KS2

KS3

Recommended for

KS2 and KS3 (History, Geography, English, Drama)

Learning objectives

WHAT: Explore the people, buildings and battles of the medieval period at Kenilworth Castle. Learn about the key people, weapons and tactics involved in a medieval siege and step into the story of the great siege of 1266.

HOW: Handle replica costumes, inspect the castle defences and work in teams to bring to life the story of the 1266 siege.

OUTCOME: Develop an in-depth understanding of medieval siege warfare and understand how the buildings and people worked together to withstand attack during a siege.

Duration

Full day

DISCOVERY VISITS AT ENGLISH HERITAGE

Our Discovery Visits are award-winning, hands-on, expert-led, site-based activities, which combine inspiring experiences with quality learning outside the classroom. At just £100 a session at selected sites, these visits are delivered by our experts and have been designed to meet the needs of different groups across the key stages. Led by specialist educators, site staff and volunteers, with knowledge and expertise across the curriculum, these visits enable students of all ages and abilities to step into England's story.

MEDIEVAL SIEGE EXPERIENCE DISCOVERY VISIT

Let us help you inspire and engage your students for a whole day at Kenilworth Castle. Extend the Medieval Castle Quest Discovery Visit so your class can enjoy a full day of expert-led activities: inspect the castle defences, recreate the story of the 1266 siege and get hands-on with replica clothing worn by medieval soldiers, including helmets, armour and surcoats. At £200 this extended Discovery Visit is great value for a class of up to 30 students to learn from our experts for a full day.

BEFORE YOUR VISIT

We recommend you do the following before the Discovery Visit:

- Divide your class into six groups. The session leader will ask you to help sort the class into these groups at the beginning of the Discovery Visit.
- Use the information and activities in the Teachers' Kit (on our **Schools page**) to introduce students to the history of Kenilworth Castle.

FOLLOW-UP LEARNING

At the end of the Discovery Visit, you will be given a set of character cards for use in the classroom. Photocopy them, cut them out and use them to explore the 1266 siege in more detail. Ask students to write and perform a monologue in role as one of the characters, describing the sights and sounds of the siege of 1266. You can share students' work with us on Twitter @EHeducation and @EHKenilworth.



During the session, students will get hands-on with the clothing worn by these 13th-century characters.

RISK ASSESSMENT

MEDIEVAL SIEGE EXPERIENCE

ACTIVITY: Medieval Siege Experience Discovery Visit
SITE: Kenilworth Castle and Elizabethan Garden, Warwickshire
DATE UPDATED: April 2019
REVIEW DATE: April 2020
PREPARED BY: Education Visits Officer (West)

DESCRIPTION AND NOTES

This risk assessment covers the Medieval Siege Experience Discovery Visit from when the group meets their guide to the time when the session ends. It does not replace a visiting group's own risk assessment. It is the responsibility of the group leader to complete the risk assessment for their group, warn of potential hazards and check with the local authority about insurance and health and safety requirements. Details of free planning visits for organisers can be found in the terms and conditions sent with the booking confirmation.

This risk assessment does not cover the walk from the coach/car park to Leicester's Gatehouse. Information relating to other areas of the site can be found in the Hazard Information in the Teachers' Kit on our **Schools page**.

The activity consists of two 90-minute interactive sessions, with a lunch break in the middle, delivered by English Heritage facilitators. During this time the students will have the opportunity to explore the features of the site, take part in role play and handle replica artefacts.

Hazard	To whom	Initial Risk $S \times L = R$			Control Measures	Risk after Controls $S \times L = R$		
Uneven paths and ground with low stone foundations.	Adults, students, staff	4	4	16	Students will be advised of this hazard prior to beginning the session and must be supervised at all times by accompanying adults. Running on site will not be permitted and extra care will be taken in wet and/or windy weather. Verbal warnings of hazards will be given during the session and movement on site will follow designated paths wherever possible.	4	1	4

Continued...

High walls and sheer drops.	Adults, students, staff	5	2	10	Students will be advised of this hazard prior to beginning the session and must be supervised at all times by accompanying adults. Students and adults will be reminded again by site staff in areas where there are unguarded steep drops. Climbing on walls and over barriers will not be permitted.	5	1	5
Steep pathways, steps and stairs.	Adults, students, staff	4	2	8	Students will be advised of this hazard prior to beginning the session and must be supervised at all times by accompanying adults. Use handrails on stairs where provided.	4	1	4
Handling objects and artefacts.	Adults, students, staff	3	2	6	Students to be under adult supervision when studying the objects and given instruction if the object is sharp or heavy. Students are sitting down or standing still while handling the objects.	3	1	3
Animal faeces.	Adults, students, staff	3	2	6	Wash hands before eating to prevent ingesting bacteria. Site staff will check site for dog faeces and clear away before opening the site.	3	1	3
Bites and stings.	Adults, students, staff	5	2	10	Accompanying adults will carry necessary medication for any students with allergies. Site staff will be aware of any insect nests on site and ensure the group keep clear.	5	1	5
Severe/adverse weather.	Adults, students, staff	5	2	10	Site staff will advise of risks on the day and restrict access to areas of the site or whole site as necessary.	5	1	5
Falling masonry and/or tree branches.	Adults, students, staff	6	2	12	Site staff will check site for fallen masonry and/or tree branches and secure the area before opening the site. Regular checking and maintenance of the site by staff.	6	1	6

Risk assessment score overall (average after risk controls) = 4.4

SUMMARY

GCSE TOUR

KS4

Recommended for

KS4 (OCR GCSE History A or B)

Learning objectives

WHAT: Understand the structural development of Kenilworth Castle through time from the 12th to the 16th century. Observe key architectural features and identify how they were used at different times in the site's history. Consider the key historical figures and events associated with the site.

HOW: Explore Kenilworth Castle and observe its key features, led by an expert tour guide.

OUTCOME: Gain a greater understanding of the appearance and layout of the castle and how it has changed over time. Consider what the form of the buildings tells us about their function at different times in the castle's history.

Duration

1 hour 30 minutes

DISCOVERY VISITS AT ENGLISH HERITAGE

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GCSE TOUR DISCOVERY VISIT

Developed to support your study of the historic environment, this tour has been specially designed to meet aspects of the requirements for OCR History A and B. Let us help you give your students an in-depth understanding of the way the site has changed over time. Explore the architecture of the buildings and discover what different parts of the site reveal about changing needs and attitudes from the 12th to the 16th century.

To find out what you can expect from this **Discovery Visit**, watch our YouTube video: <https://youtu.be/lxpiSHcUAS8>

PRIOR LEARNING

We recommend you do the following before the Discovery Visit:

- Use the Historical Information, Glossary and Timeline resources in the Teachers' Kit (on our **Schools page**) to introduce students to the key people, events and concepts associated with the castle.
- Discuss the social, historical and political contexts of the medieval and Tudor periods with students.



Year 10 students taking part in the GCSE Tour Discovery Visit.

RISK ASSESSMENT

GCSE TOUR

ACTIVITY: GCSE Tour Discovery Visit

SITE: Kenilworth Castle and Elizabethan Garden, Warwickshire

DATE UPDATED: April 2019

REVIEW DATE: April 2020

PREPARED BY: Education Visits Officer (West)

DESCRIPTION AND NOTES

This risk assessment covers the GCSE Tour Discovery Visit from when the group meets their guide to the time when the session ends. It does not replace a visiting group's own risk assessment. It is the responsibility of the group leader to complete the risk assessment for their group, warn of potential hazards and check with the local authority about insurance and health and safety requirements. Details of free planning visits for organisers can be found in the terms and conditions sent with the booking confirmation.

This risk assessment does not cover the walk from the coach/car park to Leicester's Gatehouse. Information relating to other areas of the site can be found in the Hazard Information in the Teachers' Kit on our **Schools page**.

The activity consists of a 90-minute guided walking tour of Kenilworth Castle and Elizabethan Garden, delivered by English Heritage facilitators. During this time the students will have the opportunity to explore physical features of the site and grounds.

Hazard	To whom	Initial Risk $S \times L = R$			Control Measures	Risk after Controls $S \times L = R$		
Uneven paths and ground with low stone foundations.	Adults, students, staff	4	4	16	Students will be advised of this hazard prior to beginning the session and must be supervised at all times by accompanying adults. Running on site will not be permitted and extra care will be taken in wet and/or windy weather. Verbal warnings of particular hazards will be given during the session and movement on site will follow designated paths wherever possible.	4	1	4

Continued...

High walls and sheer drops.	Adults, students, staff	5	2	10	Students will be advised of this hazard prior to beginning the session and must be supervised at all times by accompanying adults. Students and adults will be reminded again by site staff in areas where there are unguarded steep drops. Climbing on walls and over barriers will not be permitted.	5	1	5
Steep steps and stairs.	Adults, students, staff	4	2	8	Students will be advised of this hazard prior to beginning the session and must be supervised at all times by accompanying adults. Use handrails on stairs where provided.	4	1	4
Plant material.	Adults, students, staff	3	2	6	Wash hands before eating to prevent ingesting any plant material. Avoid touching the plants wherever possible; site staff to ensure garden is well kept and plants trimmed back from walkways.	3	1	3
Animals on site.	Adults, students, staff	3	3	9	Animals may bite. Do not put fingers through the wires of the birdcages or attempt to feed the birds. Site staff will remind students of this hazard when entering the garden.	3	1	3
Animal faeces.	Adults, students, staff	3	2	6	Wash hands before eating to prevent ingesting bacteria. Site staff will check site for dog faeces and clear away before opening the site. Ledges of birdcages in the garden will be kept clean as part of daily maintenance.	3	1	3
Bites and stings.	Adults, students, staff	5	2	10	Accompanying adults will carry necessary medication for any students with allergies. Site staff will be aware of any insect nests on site and ensure the group keep clear.	5	1	5
Severe/adverse weather.	Adults, students, staff	5	2	10	Site staff will advise of risks on the day and restrict access to areas of the site or whole site as necessary.	5	1	5
Falling masonry and/or tree branches.	Adults, students, staff	6	2	12	Site staff will check site for fallen masonry and/or tree branches and secure the area before opening the site. Regular checking and maintenance of the site by staff.	6	1	6

Risk assessment score overall (average after risk controls) = 4.2

RISK ASSESSMENTS EXPLAINED

Risk assessments are worked out by identifying possible hazards and putting in place measures to significantly reduce the likelihood of the hazard occurring. Once this has been done, a simple calculation that multiplies the hazard score for the activity by the chance of it happening gives a risk assessment score. A low score signifies little or no risk; a high score would indicate the activity is potentially dangerous.

HAZARD SEVERITY (S):

1. No risk of injury
2. Slight risk (minor injury requiring first aid)
3. Moderate risk (injury resulting in three days off work/school)
4. High risk (resulting in a major injury)
5. Very high risk (causing death or serious injury to an individual)
6. Extremely high risk (causing multiple deaths and widespread destruction)

Multiplied by

LIKELIHOOD OF OCCURRENCE (L):

1. Not likely (only under freak conditions)
2. Possible (if other factors are present)
3. Quite possible (if other factors precipitate it)
4. Likely (with other factors or carelessness)
5. Very likely (an accident waiting to happen)
6. Certain

RISK FACTOR (R):

Risk factor of 8 or less: Any activity that scores 8 or under has an acceptable risk factor.

Risk factor between 9 and 12: Any activity scoring between 9 and 12 has a level of risk that may be tolerable but measures must be taken to reduce the risk.

Risk factor of 13 or more: Any activity scoring 13 or more has an unacceptable risk and shouldn't be done.

The numerical scale used is to allow comparisons of risk levels only.

No literal meaning is implied by the scoring level.