

Kirkham Priory, Yorkshire

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.

Please be aware this is a Free to Enter site so there will be no staff present and no toilet facilities available.

Moving vehicles may pose a hazard upon arrival.

- The car park is situated close to the site entrance, and you don't need to cross the narrow road to the entrance. However, vehicles may approach suddenly from around a bend with limited visibility.

The ruinous nature of the priory remains may present many potential hazards.

- There are large areas of uneven surfaces and remaining stone foundations in the priory area, which are hidden from view and could be tripped over. Students should walk at all times.
- The floor surfaces are uneven and there are old, uneven and steep steps on the site.
- There are some sudden drops on site which do not have a handrail. Signage on site highlights these sudden drops; however, these should be pointed out to members of the group.
- Many walls are rough and contain uneven and often sharp stones.
- A number of stairways lead to steep drops. Students should walk at all times.
- There are a number of open medieval drains on site. Students should walk at all times and not jump over them.
- Students must be supervised by leaders in all areas of the site.

Kirkham Priory is home to a wide variety of flora and fauna.

- There are potentially harmful plants on site, including some with thorns that can irritate the skin.
- There may be rabbit holes on site which may pose a trip hazard.
- There are animals and birds on site and their droppings can present a zoonotic hazard. Visitors should wash their hands prior to eating.

The site boundaries may cause potential hazards if crossed.

- The adjacent fields often contain livestock and should not be entered without the landowner's permission.
- There is a river that runs alongside the site which can be fast moving. While appearing shallow there are deep pools and there can be large, submerged debris.

Covid-19 and flu.

- We follow government and [NHS guidelines](#) to reduce the risk of transmission. Please also follow their guidance and do not visit if you have flu or Covid-19 symptoms or have recently tested positive.