

Launceston Castle, Cornwall

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.

There are no parking or toilet facilities on site.

- Cars and coaches must park in one of the town car parks, which are payable locally.
- There are narrow pavements along the streets to the castle.
- The nearest public toilets are located in the council car park opposite the south gatehouse.

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 on the walls is not permitted and poses a significant hazard.
- The site is exposed to the elements; it is often very windy at the top of the keep due to its elevated position.
- 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 on site.

- Ground surfaces are uneven throughout and can be slippery when wet.
- There are remaining stone foundations in the bailey.
- There may be concealed animal holes or dips in grassy areas.

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

- The sides of the motte are very steep and unprotected.
- There are steep banks around the bailey area.
- Many banks are unmown and conceal hazards; visitors are advised not to stray from the path.

There are high walls and sheer drops around the site.

- There is a sheer drop from the wall walk at the top of the keep.
- There are viewing areas in the keep; visitors should not lean over or climb on the barriers.

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

- There are steep steps with metal treads up to the keep, with a handrail on each side.
- A winding stone staircase in the keep leads to the wall walk; the stone staircase is dark, and the steps are uneven.

- There are long, shallow steps up to the entrance of the castle.

There is an indoor exhibition area.

- There is a castle building activity with loose heavy wooden blocks.
- Care should be taken around the glass display cases.

There are learning resources that can be used by groups on-site, including handling collections.

- The objects in the handling collection may have rough edges, points or protrusions.
- Learners must be supervised at all times by Leaders while using the resources.
- The objects may have been handled by multiple groups; always wash hands after use.

The Castle Green in front of the castle is a public green space and is not monitored or managed by English Heritage site staff.

- Visitors are welcome to use this space at their own risk.