

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'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](https://www.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.

There are no parking or toilet facilities on site.

- Cars and coaches must park in one of the council car parks in the town.
- There is a 5–10 minute walk to the site from the car parks.
- There are narrow pavements along the streets to the castle.
- Toilets are located in the town car parks.

The ruinous nature of the castle presents many potential hazards.

- The castle walls are rough and may contain sharp stones.
- Climbing on the walls is not permitted and poses a significant hazard.
- The site is exposed to the elements.

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 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.

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 a number of steps and staircases on the site.

- There are steep steps with metal treads up to the top of the motte.
- A winding, stone staircase in the Keep leads to the wall walk.
- Stone staircases can be dark and uneven; care should be taken when using these areas.
- There are long, shallow steps up to the entrance of the castle.