

Lincoln Medieval Bishops' Palace, Lincolnshire

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.

Moving vehicles may pose a hazard upon arrival.

- The site entrance is signposted off Minster Yard, opposite to the south side of the cathedral. Two-way traffic uses Minster Yard but there is a wide pavement on either side of the road.

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

- From the Visitor Centre, entry to the site is via a path and steps down to the entry to the Alnwick Tower. The first and second floor levels of the tower are accessed via a steep, narrow, spiral staircase. The top of the staircase is unguarded.
- There are a number of narrow spiral staircases on site providing access to upper levels so please be aware if some students may find these difficult.
- From the Alnwick Tower, a steep gravel pathway and steps lead down to the Lower East Hall. To the side of the path is a grassy slope, which may be slippery if wet. A well halfway down the slope and a cesspit at the bottom of the slope are bounded by low walls and covered with a metal grille. These should not be stood on.
- Many pathways are uneven due to their medieval nature; care should be taken when walking around the whole site.
- Walls are rough and contain uneven and often sharp stones. Some walls have steep drops behind them, and under no circumstances should any wall be climbed on.
- The floor surfaces are uneven throughout, and there are old, uneven steps and staircases.
- In the Lower East Hall low light levels are supplemented by floor level electric lighting. Within the main hall area there is an unguarded set of stairs leading to a blocked entrance.
- There is a low rail around the Chapel and East Hall viewing area which is approx. 90cms high and has a drop to a lower level.
- Some walls are topped with grass for safety – please do not sit on or climb on these.

There are many potential hazards in the gardens.

- The contemporary heritage garden contains a decked area which may be slippery when wet.
- The vineyard is accessible via stairs from the garden. Group leaders should be aware that the stairs have no handrails either side and there is a short drop on the left-hand side as you reach the bottom of the steps.

- The boundary wall on the south side of the vineyard, overlooking temple garden, is a low wall with a significant drop on the other side. There should be no climbing or sitting on this wall for any reason.

Visitors on site.

- The palace is open to the public so please be aware that there will be other visitors on site. Please be respectful.
- Students should stay with their group whilst looking around the palace.

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.