

Marble Hill, Twickenham

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 and while on the site.

- Coach parking is off-site. If you require coach parking, you will need to organise this with bookings prior to arrival. Please take care navigating from the car park to the site.
- Cars drive onto site and across the car park using the same route as pedestrians.

The grounds of the site may pose various hazards.

- The park is an 'open access' site for members of the public. Please take care and keep your group together.
- Dogs can be off lead in the park, so please be aware that there will be dogs in the grounds. Please do not approach dogs that you do not know and ignore those that do approach. There is a family baby play area that is off-limits to dogs if you wish to eat your lunch in that section of the park.
- The grounds may be uneven in places and may contain low overhanging trees as well as nettles and brambles.
- The toilets inside the Coach House café are open to the public. Please ensure you stay with your students while they use the facilities.

Trees onsite may pose a hazard.

- Please do not climb on the trees for your own safety, and for the conservation of the trees.
- Trees are inspected regularly but please do take care around them as they can drop limbs due to dry weather conditions or pest damage.

The walking surfaces may be uneven and change in level.

- There are uneven surfaces throughout the park. Some areas have tarmac surfaces. There may be potholes and various trip hazards around the site.

There are active beehives on site.

- Hazard to those with allergies. Anyone with a known allergy to bee stings should carry their required medication with them at all times.
- Only trained English Heritage staff should be in contact with the hives.
- Anyone who comes across any swarm are advised to stand still, change direction or walk away. Swarms are most likely to occur in humid/stormy conditions.

The play area by the Coach House café may pose a hazard.

- The play area contains apparatus for children. Visitors are advised that the play equipment has an age limit of 12 years old.
- It is the responsibility of teachers and group leaders to supervise their groups when using the play area.
- Surfaces may become slippery in wet weather.
- Some structures are made of wood which may crack or splinter creating sharp surfaces.

The historic house may pose various hazards, including uneven surfaces, low lighting and historic objects.

- Windows and display cabinets throughout the house are not fitted with safety glass.
- There are low lighting levels in some areas of the house to help conserve the fabric, objects and paintings.
- Many stairs and steps within the house are uneven in width and may be worn.
- Some floors are covered with rugs, the edges of which could be trip hazards.
- Some tables have sharp corners, which are at 'head height' for small children.
- Several areas are roped off to the general public both for their safety and the safety of the collection. Please ensure that you do not attempt to cross the rope barriers or pull on the rope.
- Please join us in protecting and conserving the objects and paintings in the house and instruct students to not touch any items unless advised in the house. Please encourage a 'look only' policy.

The surrounding area to the park may pose a hazard when walking.

- The site is next to the River Thames. There are sharp drops from the path to the river, students should be made aware of the risks, and keep a distance from the edge.
- The ground is uneven in places. Running is not advised.