

## MOUNT GRACE PRIORY, HOUSE AND GARDENS, 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. 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://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.

#### **Moving vehicles may pose a hazard upon arrival and while on the site.**

- There is a public car and coach park 50m from the entrance to the priory.
- The narrow approach road to the monument entrance is used by traffic.
- Grounds maintenance teams may use vehicles throughout the grounds and gardens.

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

- The floor surfaces are often uneven, and there are old, uneven steps and staircases throughout.
- Walls are rough and contain uneven and often sharp stones.
- There is low masonry around the site.
- Climbing on the walls is not permitted and poses a significant hazard.
- From October through until March the site can get extremely marshy and boggy. Wearing warm/waterproof clothing and sensible footwear is particularly important at this time of year.
- There are streams, a spring house and a lake in the gardens and grounds. There are also small ditches forming part of the monastic waterways that can have water in them.

#### **The reconstructed Monk's Cell may pose possible hazards for use by large groups.**

- There are very steep wooden stairs to the first floor of the reconstructed monk's cell. Groups should only use these stairs under very careful supervision.
- The monk's cell does not contain electric lighting and is therefore lit by natural light. Groups should allow time for their eyes to adjust to the darker environment inside this part of the site.

Mount Grace Priory and Gardens is home to a wide variety of wildlife.

- There are animals and birds on site and their droppings can present a zoonotic hazard. Children should be reminded to wash their hands prior to eating.

Asbestos has been identified on the site. This is being managed and monitored by English Heritage.

- These areas are clearly marked with red stickers.
- No activities that may disturb the asbestos are permitted; please raise any concerns or accidental damage with the Site Manager immediately.