

Muchelney Abbey, Somerset

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.

The car and minibus park is adjacent to the site; there is no access for coaches.

- Coaches will need to drop off on the roadside grass verge; this is a minor road and care should be taken.
- There is no designated footpath to the abbey through the car park; both pedestrians and vehicles share this route.

The historic nature of the site presents potential hazards.

- The walls are rough and may contain sharp stones.
- There are many climbing hazards; climbing is not permitted on the remaining abbey walls.

There are large areas of uneven surfaces and remaining stone foundations around the site.

- Ground surfaces are uneven throughout the site and can be slippery when wet.
- There are few defined paths on the property; most outdoor space is grassed.
- There are two pits with metal grilles at ground level.
- There are varying levels within the abbey ruins, some with short drops.
- There are worn, uneven cobbled and flagstone floors in the ground floor rooms of the Abbots Lodging.

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

- There is a stone staircase with uneven treads up to the Abbot's Parlour.
- There are wooden stairs leading to the Steward's Room.
- The reredorter has an outdoor stone staircase with a wooden railing.
- There are short flights of uneven, stone steps within the abbey ruins. Single steps may pose a trip hazard.

There are sheer drops on the site.

- There is a drop of 1.5 metres to the earlier Anglo-Saxon ruins; this is surrounded by uneven stonework.

There are grass banks and gentle inclines on the site.

- There may be concealed animal holes or dips in grassy areas.

There are some areas with low headroom.

- There are low doorways and limited headroom in some areas of the abbey buildings.

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.

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.