

## OLD SARUM, WILTSHIRE

### Hazard Information for Education Visits

It is the responsibility of 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 write 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://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.

**Old Sarum encompasses the remains of an Iron Age hill fort and a medieval cathedral and castle; the site is outdoors and has no sheltered space.**

- The site is exposed to the elements and high winds.
- The castle walls are rough and may contain sharp stones (flints).
- There are ditches, banks and many walls and foundations – climbing is not permitted.

**There are moving vehicles operating on site.**

- Drop off and pick up is in the car park, which is situated a short walk from the admission point and gift shop; there is no designated walkway through the car park.
- Coaches may have to drop off and pick up in the layby on the main road.
- There is shared use of the access road from the main road to the site by pedestrians and vehicles.
- The only toilets on site are located in the car park area.

**There are large areas of uneven ground and surfaces can be slippery when wet.**

- Be aware of animal holes and dips in the ground in grassed areas; walk in short grass areas wherever possible.
- Low stone foundations remain in the castle and cathedral areas.
- Pits, wells and flues at ground level are covered with grilles.
- The wooden access bridge may be slippery when wet/icy.

There are steep banks and inclines on the site.

- There is a footpath along the top of some of the steep banks of the inner bailey perimeter.
- A steep-sided, grassed dry moat lies between the inner and outer baileys; this is not accessible.
- The outer bailey has steep sides.
- The main path is fairly even, but it gets steep towards Iron Age ramparts and by outlines of the Bishop's palace. When the site is dry, the main path is wheelchair-accessible.
- The wooden access bridge is on a significant incline.

There are sheer drops around the site.

- The wooden access bridge spans a deep, grassed dry moat.
- There are unguarded high walls with long drops in the castle area.

There are a number steps and staircases on the site.

- An open-tread wooden staircase in the castle has handrails provided.
- Stone steps in the castle area are uneven and do not have handrails.

Wildlife and livestock may be present on site.

- The outer bailey is often used by dog walkers and dogs may be off leash.
- All animals may bite or scratch, please do not approach them.
- There are many rabbit droppings on site and the bridge railing is likely to have pigeon droppings on it despite regular checks. Animal droppings may present a zoonotic hazard; always wash hands prior to eating meals.