

Pendennis Castle, Cornwall

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 large car and coach park is situated a short walk from the site.

- A narrow, steep, uneven path with steps leads from the car park to the entrance; visitors with mobility issues may be dropped off on the drive. Please follow the signs from the road to the disabled access point.
- There is no footpath along the drive; both pedestrians and cars share the drive and entrance bridge.
- Moving vehicles may pose a hazard on arrival and while on the site.

The historic nature of the site presents many potential hazards.

- The walls are rough and may contain sharp stones.
- Half Moon Battery has multi-level metal platforms and walkways.
- Tunnels are dark with uneven floors.
- There is a trap door in the Battery Observation Post; this is securely covered.
- Concrete platforms with raised metal tracks are present in some areas.
- There is a heavy metal entrance door and there are historic window latches in the Battery Observation Post.
- Some buildings contain historic moving machinery.

There are large areas of uneven surfaces around the property.

- Areas of the entranceway are cobbled.
- The ground surfaces are uneven throughout and can be slippery when wet.
- There are remaining stone foundations and pit covers on the site.
- There may be concealed animal holes or dips in grassy areas.

There are steep banks and inclines on much of the site.

- A dry moat, with very steep sides, surrounds the site.
- There are steep banks and ditches on the site.

There are high walls and sheer drops around the site.

- The bridge leading from the drive to the entrance has sheer drops on either side.
- There are high boundary walls with drops onto rocks and the sea.
- Climbing on the walls is not permitted and poses a significant hazard.

There are a number of steps and staircases on the site; these can be slippery when wet.

- There are uneven steps and narrow, worn stone staircases in the Tudor Gun Tower and Half Moon Battery.
- Some staircases have rope handrails.
- There are stairs down to the Battery Observation Post.
- There are raised platforms in the gun deck recreation.

There are some areas with low headroom.

- The Tudor Gun Tower has low doorways and staircases.
- The tunnels to the Half Moon Battery have low headroom and can be slippery when wet.

There may be a gun firing demonstration on the parade ground.

- Please check at the Visitors Centre for confirmation and timings on the day.
- The area is roped off for safety; do not cross this barrier.
- Hearing protection instructions are given prior to firing.

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.