

Peveril Castle, Derbyshire

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.

The elevated setting of the castle site presents many potential hazards.

- There is a long, steep, narrow path that zig-zags up a grass-covered slope up to the castle ruins from the Visitor Centre. The path includes a number of uneven steps. The first section has a handrail, but beyond is unguarded. Care must also be taken on the way down.
- Visitors are likely to encounter others descending from the castle; please allow safe traffic in both directions.
- Please walk on the path and do not take short cuts across the slope.
- There is very little shade onsite when walking up to the castle; please take precautions in hot weather.
- Running on site is not permitted and students must be supervised at all times.

The historic nature of the castle presents many potential hazards.

- The area of the inner bailey slopes steeply upwards from the north side. The area is largely grass-covered but in several places rocky outcrops and the remains of buildings protrude. These are potential trip hazards.
- Walls are rough and contain uneven and often sharp stones.
- Floor and ground surfaces are uneven throughout and where exposed to the elements can be wet and slippery.
- The castle's elevated situation also means that it can be windy.
- The defensive nature of the castle means that it is surrounded by steep drops. The inner bailey walls vary in height and in some parts are low enough to be climbed onto. The walls act as a barrier to steep drops and should not be climbed under any circumstances.
- The keep is accessed via an external modern spiral staircase. This leads to a wooden platform from which visitors can walk into two small chambers. The platform has waist height rails; it is exposed to the elements so may be wet and slippery at times. From the wooden platform, a narrow spiral staircase leads down to the ground floor. This has unevenly worn steps and is lit by an electric light. Visitors are likely to encounter others on the stairs.
- In high winds, the castle will have to close due to danger from falling masonry.
- Some areas may be roped off due to conservation work. Do not cross rope barriers.
- Running is not permitted, and students must be supervised in all areas.

Peveril Castle is home to a wide variety of flora and fauna.

- There are potentially harmful plants on site, including some with thorns that can irritate the skin.
- There are animals and birds on site and their droppings can present a zoonotic hazard. Visitors should wash their hands prior to eating.
- There may be rabbit holes on site which may pose a trip hazard.
- There may be bees and wasps on site so please be aware of the potential for stings and bites.
- There are mature trees on site that may drop branches in rare circumstances; care should be taken when passing under or near large trees.

Visitors on site.

- The castle is open to the public so please be aware that there will be other visitors on site. Please be respectful.
- Students should stay with their group whilst looking around the castle.