

## 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'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.

#### The elevated setting of the castle site presents potential hazards, including steep paths and uneven steps.

- A long, steep, narrow path zig-zags up a grass-covered slope to the castle ruins from the visitor centre.
- The path up to the castle includes a number of uneven steps. The first section has a handrail, but beyond this it is unguarded.
- Visitors are likely to encounter others descending from the castle, but must walk on the path and not take short cuts across the slope. Care must also be taken on the way down.

#### The historic nature of the castle remains presents a number of hazards, including slip and trip 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.
- 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 means that it is exposed to the elements.
- 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 is railed to waist height, and 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.

**Pevelil 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. Children should be reminded to wash their hands prior to eating.