

Restormel 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 car and coach park is adjacent to the site.

- There is no designated footpath across the car park.

The historic nature of the castle presents many potential hazards.

- Climbing on the walls is not permitted and poses a significant hazard.
- The walls are rough and may contain sharp stones.
- The site is exposed to the elements; it is mainly outdoors with limited indoor and sheltered areas.

There are large areas of uneven surfaces.

- Ground surfaces are uneven throughout and can be slippery when wet.
- There are remaining stone foundations around the site.
- There are few defined paths on the property; most outdoor space is grassed.
- Gravel surfaces may be uneven; loose stone can be a skid hazard.
- There may be concealed animal holes, tree stumps or dips in grassy areas.

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

- There are steep sides on the dry moat, which are unprotected.

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

- A narrow stone staircase leads part way to the wall walk.
- An open wooden staircase leads part way to the wall walk.
- Stone steps around the site are worn and uneven.
- Single steps may pose a trip hazard.

There are high walls and sheer drops around the site.

- There are sheer drops off the wall walk into the keep; these are protected by a metal railing.

There is the possible presence of livestock grazing on site.

- Animals may bite or kick; please do not approach them.
- Animal droppings may present a zoonotic hazard; visitors should wash hands prior to eating meals.

There is a small hut on site containing the toilets and education space.

- The door on the Education Room is heavy and self-closing; ensure the door is secured by the hook provided.
- The education room is for bag storage only; it is to be accessed by the group leaders only. It is not suitable for activities or to eat lunch.
- The water in the toilets hand wash basin is potentially very hot.

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.