

RICHMOND CASTLE, YORKSHIRE

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://www.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 ruinous nature of the castle site may present many potential hazards.

- The ruinous nature of the castle presents many climbing hazards. Visitors must not climb on any part of the historic fabric of the property.
- The floor surfaces are uneven throughout and there are old, uneven steps and staircases, particularly in the keep.
- Walls are rough and contain uneven and often sharp stones.
- There is a well by the curtain walls near Robin Hood's Tower bounded by low walls and covered with a metal grate. This should not be stood on.
- There are banks and ditches around the site, some of which are steep. Visitors must not climb on the banks or ditches.
- There are steep cliffs overlooking the river which is fenced and signed. Visitors must not climb or cross this perimeter fencing.
- Access to the roof area is by a narrow, steep, stone staircase. Descent from the roof is via the same staircase and users may encounter visitors going the opposite way. Please be aware that the roof area of the keep is exposed and open to the elements. Close supervision is needed at all times.

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

- Children should be reminded not to touch or eat any part of the plants or seeds in the contemporary heritage garden or elsewhere on site.
- 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.

Asbestos has been identified on the site this is being managed and monitored by English Heritage.

- These areas are clearly marked with red stickers.
- No activities that may disturb the asbestos are permitted; please raise any concerns or accidental damage with the Site Manager immediately.