

Roche Abbey, 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 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.

Please be aware this is a Free to Enter site so there will be no staff present and no toilet facilities.

Moving vehicles may pose a hazard upon arrival.

- There is no coach parking. Access is from the main road and students will need to walk down the access road which has no path. Alternatively, there is a path from Maltby or across fields.
- The car park is situated 250m from the entrance to the Abbey site. Please be aware that there may also be some vehicles using this path.
- Alternative parking is available for disabled visitors next to the admission point.

The ruinous nature of the Abbey remains may present many potential hazards.

- The floor surfaces are uneven throughout and there are old, uneven steps and staircases.
- Walls are rough and contain uneven and often sharp stones.
- It is easy to climb to higher areas of masonry; however, visitors are prohibited from doing this.
- Grass banks are steep and can be slippery particularly in wet weather.
- There are deep water channels with steep sides throughout the Abbey. Many of these have no fencing so caution is advised when near these features.

Roche Abbey 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 may be rabbit holes and mole hills on site which may pose a trip hazard.
- There are animals and birds on site and their droppings can present a zoonotic hazard. Visitors should wash their hands prior to eating.
- The plants and flowers on site attract bees and wasps so please be aware that stings and insect bites may occur.

Visitors on site.

- The Abbey 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 abbey.

Asbestos has been identified on the site. This is common with older buildings and some historic artefacts and is being managed and monitored by English Heritage.

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

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.