

St Mawes 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.

Access to the site car park has a tight turn and steep camber to enter; this is not suitable for large vehicles.

- There is no space for coaches to park at the site; coaches must find alternative parking.
- There is no designated footpath through the car park.
- The access track on the approach to the site is shared by both pedestrians and vehicles.

The historic nature of the site presents many potential hazards.

- The walls are rough and may contain sharp stones.
- The site is exposed to the elements.
- Climbing is not permitted and poses a significant hazard.

There are large areas of uneven surfaces around the property.

- The ground surfaces are uneven throughout and can be slippery when wet.
- There are remaining stone foundations and pit covers on the site.
- There may be concealed animal holes and dips in grassy areas.

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

- A dry moat with very steep sides surrounds the site.
- There are high boundary walls with drops onto rocks and the sea.

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

- There are worn stone spiral staircases.
- Some staircases are unlit with uneven treads.
- Staircases may be slippery when wet.
- There are some staircases with no handrails.
- Stone steps may be narrow and uneven. Single steps may pose a trip hazard.

There are some areas with low headroom.

- The doorways and staircases in the keep have low headroom.

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.