

STOKESAY CASTLE, SHROPSHIRE

Hazard Information Sheet 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 car and coach park is situated opposite the main site entrance.

- There is no footpath through the car park.
- Access to the site from the car park is across a minor road.
- Hedges and a bend in the road may obstruct views when crossing.

The historic nature of the castle presents many potential hazards.

- The walls are rough and may contain sharp stones.
- Climbing on the walls is not permitted and poses a significant hazard.
- The site is exposed to the elements; has outdoor areas and some sheltered indoor space.
- The castle buildings have staircases and low doorways.

There are large areas of uneven surfaces around the property.

- The towers have uneven floors.
- Ground surfaces are uneven throughout and can be slippery when wet.

There are high walls and sheer drops around the site, some of which are unguarded.

- The South Tower has low, open windows at the top.

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

- There are steep, wooden steps leading from the Great Hall to the North Tower.
- There is a very narrow, worn stone spiral staircase leading up to the South Tower.
- The stairs used to descend into the moat have no handrails.

There are various plants in the garden; some may pose a hazard.

- Plant material and thorns may be toxic or poisonous; always wash hands prior to eating meals.