

STONEHENGE, WILTSHIRE

Hazard Information for Education Visits

It is the responsibility of 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 write 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

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.

Stonehenge is a Prehistoric stone circle and modern visitor centre, with a significant outdoor component.

- The open situation of the site means it is exposed to the elements and can be very wet and windy.
- There is no shelter at the stone circle and limited indoor areas at the visitor centre.

There is a recommended one way system in operation for pedestrians moving between the visitor centre and the monument.

- The walk from the visitor centre to the stone circle and back is approximately 2.6 miles (4km) much of it across fields which can be slippery when wet.
- The route towards the stone circle is well marked through the National Trust permissive open access landscape.
- There is shared use of the access road from the visitor centre to the stone circle by pedestrians and visitor shuttle buses, with a marked path for pedestrians returning from the stones.

There are moving vehicles operating on site.

- Drop off and collection is in the coach park, which is situated a short walk from the visitor centre, across a controlled access road.
- Visitor shuttle buses do not exceed 20mph and all drivers have a PVS licence.

There are large areas of uneven ground and surfaces can be slippery when wet.

- Be aware of animal holes and dips in the ground in grassed areas; use designated walkways and short grass paths wherever possible.
- There is a perforated surface walkway at the monument with grass growing through it.

The construction and operation of the site provides a number of hazards.

- There are areas of low headroom in and around the Neolithic houses.
- Metal poles supporting the structure of the visitor centre at ground level are angled and unevenly spaced.
- External doors at the visitor centre are heavy and should be operated automatically, using the button.
- All windows and display cabinets throughout the visitor centre contain safety glass.
- There can be many large crowds of people around the visitor centre and at the monument.

There may be lit fires and activity demonstrations by volunteers in and around the Neolithic houses.

- Fires are always roped off and supervised by a volunteer; please be aware of smoke inhalation.
- Replica objects may be heavy or sharp and must be held and handled as instructed.
- Maximum of 10 students are allowed in a house at one time.
- Volunteers may be demonstrating replica objects outside the Neolithic houses.

Wildlife and livestock may be present on site.

- All animals may bite or scratch, please do not approach them.
- Animal droppings may present a zoonotic hazard; always wash hands prior to eating meals.