

Stonehenge, Wiltshire

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 should be supervised by a responsible adult at all times whilst on 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 and the Kusuma Neolithic Hall.
- Metal poles supporting the structure of the visitor centre at ground level are angled and unevenly spaced.
- The external door to Education Room Courtyard is heavy and on a windy day should have two people open it.
- 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 or staff in and around the Neolithic houses and Kusuma Neolithic Hall.

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

All toilets at Stonehenge are shared between visitors and education groups.

- There are no toilets reserved for education groups at Stonehenge. Students should be supervised when using the toilets provided.
- Use of the toilets for education groups needs to be managed by the group leaders.

There is no dedicated indoor or covered lunch space available on site.

- Groups can picnic on any public area of the site that belongs to English Heritage ensuring they respect all other visitors and remove all rubbish.
- The education room courtyard can be available upon request with advance notice, but this area is not covered.

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; students should wash hands prior to eating meals.

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.

The English Heritage / Taskmaster Education bookable Tasking Backpack may cause potential hazards for groups using it.

- Leaders should choose a large, safe, flat place to do the tasks, taking advice from site staff where necessary.
- Leaders should supervise students / groups whilst doing the tasks – there are some small resources and some that could cause injury through being handled incorrectly.
- Leaders should make site staff aware if any resources are broken.
- Participants should wash their hands after completing the tasks and before eating.