

TINTAGEL 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.

There is no car or coach park on site; cars and coaches should park in the town pay and display car parks.

- Access to the site is via a 600 metre walk along a steep track.
- The access track is shared by both pedestrians and vehicles.
- There is a 4x4 transport service for visitors with limited mobility. This is not managed by English Heritage and is payable locally. This does not operate every day.

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.
- There are many climbing hazards. Climbing on the walls 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 on the site.
- Natural ground surfaces of slate, gravel and grass may be unstable due to erosion.
- There may be concealed animal holes and dips in grassy areas.

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

- The site is surrounded by steep, unfenced cliffs down to the sea.
- There are grassy and rocky banks on the headland.
- The valley sides drop away into a stream below.

There are high walls and sheer drops around the site.

- Both bridges between the mainland and the headland have sheer drops on either side.
- The headland cliffs drop into the sea.
- The mainland courtyards have drops onto rocks and the sea.
- There is a 40 mm gap between the two halves of the cantilever bridge.

There are a number of steps and staircases on the site; these can be slippery when wet.

- The return route from the headland has narrow, worn stone steps.
- There are some staircases with no handrails.
- Stone steps may be narrow and uneven.

- Single steps may pose a trip hazard.
- The steps to the beach are slippery when wet.

There is open access to water on the site.

- There is a stream running past the shop building to the cliff edge and waterfall.
- The site is surrounded by the sea.
- The beach and cave are only accessible at low tide; these can flood quickly cutting off your retreat. You must be aware of the incoming tide if venturing on to the beach.
- There may be wildlife on the beach, or in the shallow water at the shore edge, including seals. Do not approach any wild animal.
- There may be hazardous waste washed up on the beach, including animal remains; keep clear.

Livestock may be present and grazing on site.

- Animals may bite or kick; please do not approach them.
- Animal droppings may present a zoonotic hazard; visitors should wash hands prior to eating.

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.