

ELTHAM PALACE AND GARDENS, GREENWICH

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'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.

There is a one way system operating at Eltham Palace.

- Please be aware of the one way system operating on site and stick to this route to avoid congestion and to maintain social distancing with other visitors.

Moving vehicles may pose a hazard upon arrival and while on the site.

- There is a car park on site, this please check the website for the separate car parking entrance. Please be aware of hazards in the car park, fast moving cars and delivery vehicles manoeuvring.

The walking surfaces may be uneven and change in level; please use paved pathways and designated walkways wherever possible.

- There are uneven surfaces throughout the house and gardens. Some areas have loose gravel surfaces and there may be potholes and various trip hazards around the site.
- Some surfaces may be slippery when wet.
- Shoes with stiletto heels are unsuitable for a visit to this property.

Staircase treads may be worn and uneven; always use the handrail where provided in the house and garden.

- During wet weather, the paths and steps may become slippery.
- The steps leading down to the moat are quite steep.
- Many stairs and steps within the house are uneven in width.

There are a number of hazards within the house related to historic features and conservation.

- On rainy days, you will be provided with protective shoe covers which must be worn inside the house.
- There is a large porthole in the wall halfway up the main staircase. There is a 6-foot unprotected drop on the other side of this feature.
- Several areas are roped off to the general public both for their safety and the safety of the collection. Please ensure that you do not attempt to cross the rope barriers or pull on the rope.

There are various hazards within the restored garden, including water features and climbing hazards.

- There are a number of water features (a moat, a pond, and well) in the garden. The edges of some of these are indeterminate and not fenced and may be slippery or muddy.
- The well is very deep (over 3 metres) and there is a metal grill over the top.
- Please do not climb on any of the walls or trees.
- Please note that there are steep drops from the terraces, walls, and bridges, especially in the South Garden.