



**Burton Constable Hall**  
Skirlaugh, East Riding of Yorkshire, HU11 4LN

## **Hazard Information Sheet for Educational Groups**

**It is the responsibility of teachers and group leaders to complete their own risk assessment prior to their visit. This is usually a requirement by local education authorities. The following information is intended as a preparatory tool, and does not replace a teacher's or group leader's own risk assessment. Please be aware that conditions at historic sites may change rapidly during your visit, and that you will need to remain alert at all times during your visit.**

**Please do not ask our staff to fill in, check, or sign any sections of your risk assessment, as they have no responsibility to do so.**

**Dropping off:** there is coach parking in the main visitor car park located next to the Stable Block.

**Stable Block:** entrance into the site is through the stable block visitor entrance via a gentle slope. The stable block has a number of uneven floor surfaces and cobbled pavements. Parts of the upper level rooms are accessible via steep wooden staircases. These staircases may be narrow and have unusual bends due to their historic nature. Owl pellets, animal and bird droppings can be found in both the stable courtyards and inside the stable rooms. The Whale Barn has low lighting levels to allow for a screen projector.

**Hall:** entrance to the hall is via the flat gravel paths leading from the stable block. The site also has a number of gravel roads for local traffic, therefore care should be taken when crossing these roads. Vehicles on-site are restricted to a 10mph speed limit.

Once inside, the floors are accessed by flights of wood, stone or carpeted steps. A self-operated chair lift is available. All staircases have handrails. Some of the staircases are spiral, therefore extra care needs to be taken on these and we recommend single file with an adult leading the front and an adult at the back. Stone steps can have uneven dips due to historical wear and tear.

**Gardens:** some of the plants are potentially harmful including plants with poisonous berries, seeds and spores and others may have spikes, thorns and hairs that can irritate the skin. Species of fungi should not be disturbed to prevent poisonous spores coming into contact with skin. The gardens attract many insects including bees and wasps. Animal and bird droppings are commonly found on paths and

amongst fallen leaves. The safest approach is to avoid touching or smelling any plant, including leaves on the paths.

A sunken wall (Ha-ha) surrounds the west front lawns. Please stick to the designated paths.

The grounds do have a series of uneven steps and slopes in parts. Care should be taken in these areas. Climbing is not permitted.

**Parkland:** the parkland that surrounds the house and gardens may contain grazing sheep and cattle. Care should be taken to avoid animal droppings. Before entering a field take note of any notices attached to the gate/fence. If a field contains cattle with calves or a bull do not take children into the field and to find an alternative route around.

**Ponds:** all ponds are within fenced areas. Under no circumstances should these areas be entered.

**Dipping Pond:** a purpose made dipping pond is located in the parkland. This area is fenced off and the gates kept locked. It should only be accessed when a designated member of Burton Constable staff is present.

**Lakeside:** the lakes are located over 400m from the main house and gardens. Groups undertaking a lakeside walk should stick to the paths that surround the lake at a safe distance.

**Trees:** all trees are inspected as part of an annual cycle. However, storm damage can sometimes affect the stability of apparently healthy trees and branches. Group leaders should be particularly aware of this when undertaking their own risk assessments prior to a visit.

**Toilets:** the toilets are located a short distance from the hall in the Stable Block. These are public toilets and children should be supervised at all times.

**Ongoing conservation or maintenance work on site may cause additional temporary hazards. A member of the Site Team will advise you of these when you make your planning visit and on the day of your group's visit.**

Reviewed 19/01/2015