



the National Trust
for Scotland
a place for everyone

Brodie Castle & Estate

Teacher's information



Brodie Castle stands on land that has belonged to the Brodie family for at least 800 years. Generations of Brodies have left their mark on their home. In altering and re-decorating the castle, adding new wings, and choosing furniture, ornaments and household equipment that suited their interests and taste, the family has reflected the historical and sociological times in which they lived.

The present building is based on a 16th century 'Z' plan tower house, with 17th and 19th century additions. Internally, the wonderful ornate ceilings and fine collections of books, ceramics and paintings make any visit to the castle a memorable one. The paintings range from 17th century Dutch masters to Modern British water-colours, and include three works of art by the Scottish Colourists. Brodie also has fully equipped Victorian nursery rooms, a kitchen and a dairy. There is a significant family archive on site.

The surrounding 70-hectare estate comprises striking formal 18th century landscapes, overlaid with a 19th century shrubbery, to the east, and natural woodland to the west. The woodland is set around a large naturalised pond and offers several walks (accessible for wheelchair users), a nature trail through contrasting habitats and two observation hides. Conifers, rhododendrons and monkey puzzle trees were planted here in Victorian times to create the wild garden, and this complements many older specimens in the shrubbery. Brodie is famous for its daffodils throughout spring-time - these include many specialist varieties bred by the pioneering 24th laird.

At the end of the south-east drive stands a finely carved Class II Pictish stone.

A school visit offers opportunities for cross-curricular work and engaging with the Curriculum for Excellence:

Primary Schools (all Levels)

- A tour of the castle – this can be tailored to your pupils' requirements.
- A tour of the castle grounds.
- A woodland walk with a visit to the pond – again, tailored to the needs of your pupils.
- Possible options for topics include: Brodie Castle; the Brodies; Victorians; Toys; Leisure.
- Victorian Programme: this involves living history and participatory experiences – please phone for more details.

Secondary Schools

- There are several options, including Specialist Art Tours.
- Please phone to discuss your requirements.

Resources for schools:

- Illustrated guide book (for sale at Brodie).
- History quizzes for children (Second/Third Levels).
- For topics Toys or Leisure: CD of images of the castle toys and sports equipment.
- For the Victorian programme: Victorian Objects handling box, games, some replica costumes.

For more information, visit www.nts.org.uk/Learn

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Planning your class visit:

- To book: please contact Brodie Castle for a booking form & to discuss your requirements.
- Book well in advance to avoid disappointment.
- Pre-booking is essential.
- Maximum number of pupils: Please discuss this when booking. We are happy to work with one class or more. We can sometimes accommodate a large number of pupils on the same day, depending on staff availability. There should be a ratio of 1 adult to 10 pupils; and, for younger children, 1 adult to 8 pupils.
- Access - castle: we regret that there is limited access for those with mobility impairment within the castle. The ground floor is accessible (with ramps) for wheelchair users - and there is a stairclimber (pre-bookable) to the 1st floor. There is no wheelchair access to the third or fourth floors of this historic building, due to the turnpike stairs and layout. For those who cannot access the upper floors, we can offer photograph albums showing the castle interiors - and also, on the first floor, an opportunity to handle some historic objects, while the class explores the upper floors. (Please book this in advance).
- Access – grounds: All the pathways are suitable for wheelchairs (though some can become muddy). Advice on suitable routes can be provided, both before and during the day of your visit.
- Additional Needs: We want to ensure that everyone gets the most from their visit – so do please contact us to discuss your requirements. We will do our utmost to accommodate you.
- Toilets: Fully accessible toilets are available in the car/coach park, the ground floor of the castle (back of building) and at the stables.
- Refreshments: Pupils are welcome to bring packed lunches. In good weather, they can picnic in the castle grounds. During wet weather, the Stables Meeting Room can be used (limited access), in the summer season. In winter, pupils may eat their packed lunches in the tearoom. (The castle tearoom is open to visitors in the summer season).
- The site has been risk assessed. Teachers are expected to prepare their own RA for the visit.
- There is more information about planning a visit to a Trust site on the NTS Learn website: www.ntslearning.org.uk
- For more information about Brodie Castle & Estate, please go to our web pages: www.nts.org.uk/Property/Brodie-Castle/

Charges:

- There is no admission charge for schools with NTS educational membership.
- Non-members are welcome but there is a charge of £2 per pupil – accompanying adults are admitted free.
- Membership: to apply for membership, go the NTS Learn website: www.ntslearning.org.uk – or contact Brodie Castle.
- All class teachers are encouraged to make a free preparatory visit to the site.
- PLEASE NOTE: Assistance with transport charges may be available – we use the NTS' *Buses for Bairns* scheme and can supply an application form.

During your class visit:

- NTS staff will lead castle tours.
- Outdoor activities may be led by NTS staff, or be teacher led. Please discuss when booking.
- Brodie Castle & Estate are open for educational visits all year round, during school hours.
- Allow 1 – 4 hours for a visit, depending on what has been booked. A castle tour takes around 1 hour. Do allow time to explore the garden/estate, and for visits to the toilets/shop.
- For a castle tour, your class will be split into groups of up to 16 pupils. There should be at least one teacher/school helper with each group.
- Teachers are responsible for their pupils, and for their behaviour.
- Pupils do not need to bring any materials for the school visit, unless specified for e.g. an art class.
- We regret that you cannot take photographs inside the castle.



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During your class visit (continued):

- Coats and bags, if not needed, should usually be left in the coach.
- Pupils are welcome to visit the shop, in small groups and with teacher supervision.
- On arrival: please report to front desk (at the main castle entrance).

Getting to Brodie:

- Brodie Castle is off the A96, 4½ miles west of Forres and 24 miles east of Inverness.
- There is a car/coach park in the grounds. Car parking for people with mobility impairment is available near the castle.

For more information and a booking form, please contact:

The Property Manager, Brodie Castle, Forres, Inverness, Nairn, Moray & The Black Isle IV36 2TE
Telephone: 0844 493 2156 Email: brodiecastle@nts.org.uk