



Enquiry, Local History, Coal Mining James White Investigation

Guidelines for Supervising Teachers

Preparing for Your Visit: It is strongly recommended that supervising staff arrange a pre-visit to familiarise themselves with facilities at the Museum. Complimentary tickets are available on request in order to assist with planning and risk assessments. A Hazard Identification Sheet will also be provided in order to help you with your risk assessment.

Practicalities:

- **Where to Go and How to Get There:** The James White Enquiry begins in the Chapel. To get there either take the tram from the entrance to Home Farm stop and walk down into The Pit Village, use the access route to walk from the entrance or the woodland walk from Pockerley. Once in The Pit Village, make your way to The Chapel (next to The School), where you will be met by a member of staff.
- **Arriving on Time:** Please ensure you arrive at The Chapel on time. If you are booked on the first session (10.30 start) it is advisable to walk straight to The Pit Village. In the event of a late arrival every effort will be made to accommodate the full time of the activity, however, due to other bookings this may not always be possible.
- **What to Bring/Wear:** Pupils will need weather appropriate clothing. Beamish is an open air museum and the weather may be inclement.
- **Toilets:** The nearest toilets are in The Lamp Cabin, next to the mine.
- **Health and Safety Information:** A Hazard Identification Sheet will be provided with your booking in order to advise you of any possible risks or hazards.
- **Access:** An accessible bus is available and can take any members of your group with access needs into The Pit Village. There are steps up to The Chapel and to some of the other buildings, however, groups can be arranged to suit any access needs. If there is anyone in your group with access needs, please contact the Bookings Officer on bookings@beamish.org.uk or telephone on 0191 370 4026 and they will be able to advise you.

Outline of Activity: On being met at The Chapel, the group will be asked to split into five groups (**NOTE:** Beamish staff will not accompany the groups so accompanying staff will need to play an active role in supervising the groups). A notice outside The Chapel announces the death of James White (12 years old) who has died at the Pit. Children will be asked to play the role of investigators and, by interviewing different people, uncover what has happened, what James White was like and who was responsible for his death (if anyone). Each group will visit characters to interview them; they will take notes and start to put the story together. Once back at The Chapel, the children will then decide in their groups what should change at the mine so that the accidents will not happen again. They must also decide on a logical and fair recommendation to make to make sure that the incident is not repeated. Each group will send a representative to the front to explain to the other groups what they have decided.

Objectives of Activity:

- To understand the working arrangement of the coal mining communities in the past both on the domestic and industrial side of life.
- To encourage the development of problem solving and team work skills.
- To develop and use thinking skills such as questioning, planning, making decisions and judgements and the synthesis of information.

Ideas for Pre and Post Visit:

- **Pre:** Pupils could be introduced to investigation skills such as questioning, how to decide the validity of any claims made and how investigations are usually conducted. There are a number of associated resources available - please contact the Learning Team at the Museum for further information, contact listed below.
- **Post:** Using the James White Enquiry as a basis, and the skills learnt from the experience, pupils could explore different events or scenarios (linked to the topic under study). They can then either study different points of views/sources and determine the validity of each viewpoint and come to a conclusion or write/draw what they think the different viewpoints might be.

Contact us: If you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact Simon Woolley, Head of Learning on 0191 370 4011 OR email education@beamish.org.uk.



Hazard Identification Sheet – Enquiry – Local History – Coal Mining – James White

Location: Pit Village

| Potential Hazard | Who is particularly at risk | Context of hazard and steps to be taken by accompanying adults to prevent accidents | Risk of accident/dangerous occurrence High/medium/low | If high or medium what additional precautions or measures need to be taken to reduce risk to low |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|--|--|--|
| Slips and trips | Students and Adults | Participants will be walking around The Pit Village and the mine area, where the ground is sometimes uneven and slippery. Beamish staff will advise participants to take care. Supervisory adults should ensure that all the students are wearing appropriate and sturdy footwear. | Low | |
| Fires | Students and Adults | Students will be visiting different areas, including two of the pit cottages and the school. In these areas there will be coal fires lit. Beamish staff will advise students to stay away from the fire and guards will be kept in front of the fires to keep students away from them. Supervisory adults should monitor the behaviour of the students under their care. | Low | |
| Dust/smoke | Students and Adults | As a result of the open coal fires in the pit cottages and school it is possible that some rooms will be smoky or dusty. Beamish staff will keep areas as well ventilated as possible. Supervisory adults should be aware of any students with allergies/asthma and ensure participants have necessary inhalers. Please inform Beamish staff if there is a problem and an alternative task will be provided. | Low | |
| Vehicles on The Pit Village road | Children and Adults | During the session participants will be moving around The Pit Village area and will therefore be crossing the main 'road' through the Village. Although there is little traffic there is a bus which regularly comes down into the village. Beamish staff will warn the group to be careful on the road | Low | |

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| | | and accompanying adults should ensure that these instructions are followed. Accompanying adults should ensure that care is taken when moving around The Pit Village. | | |
| Steps into buildings | Children and Adults | Children will be going into the chapel, the school and one of the pit cottages. All these have steps up to them which could provide a trip hazard if care is not taken. Beamish staff will advise the group to take care at the beginning of the session. Accompanying staff should reinforce this message and monitor the behaviour of the children in their care. | Low | |
| Trip hazards at the mine | Children and Adults | As part of the session children will visit the mine to interview the miners. Although pupils will not go down the mine as part of this session, there are trip hazards such as rails on the ground. Beamish staff will warn children of any trip hazards. Accompanying staff should reinforce Beamish staffs' message and supervise the children under their care to ensure they are being careful and sensible. | Low | |
| Steep steps up to the heap stead | Children and Adults | If no staff are available at the mine or they are too busy to speak to pupils needing to interview them, groups might be directed to the heap stead to speak to a member of staff. This would involve climbing a number of steep steps. Beamish staff will advise care and accompanying adults should reinforce this message and ensure that care is taken on the steps. | Low | |
| Group work- security issues | Students and Adults | During the visit students will be working in groups, some of which will not be accompanied by a supervisory adult. Supervising adults should stress how students should behave and warn them of any potential hazards. Supervising adults should also ensure that they have devised a system to monitor where their students are. | Low | |

Date Reviewed: 4th December 2014

Reviewed by: Simon Woolley, Head of Learning