



Mayday, Mayday!

Guidelines for Supervising Teachers

Preparing for Your Visit:

It is strongly recommended that supervising staff should arrange a pre-visit appointment to familiarise themselves with facilities at the Museum. Complimentary tickets are available on request in order to assist with planning and risk assessments.

Practicalities:

- **Where to Go and How to Get There:** Please meet at Home Farm/Pit Village Tram Stop. A member of staff will meet your class here.
- **Arriving On Time:** Please ensure that you arrive promptly at the time written on your booking form. You can reach the tram stop on foot, by tram or by bus. Often it is quickest to walk from the entrance.
- **What to Bring/Where:** Pupils should bring pen/pencil and paper or notebook to record evidence and ideas. Teachers may wish to bring a camera to photograph evidence or film 'witnesses' to use in discussions at school.
- **Storage:** Once at the Farm the pupils will be shown where to store their bags and coats.
- **Toilets:** It is advisable that pupils visit the toilets before the activity. The nearest toilets are next to the British Kitchen food outlet at Home Farm.
- **Health and Safety Information:** A hazard identification sheet is enclosed. Please note that the Museum advises pregnant women do not visit Home Farm during lambing time. There is a public road passing through Home Farm. Special care needs to be taken to ensure traffic is negotiated safely. Please follow directions from Beamish staff and ensure children stay on the safe side of fences and gates.
- **Access:** One of the rooms used for the activity is only accessible via stairs. If there is anyone in your group with access needs please contact the Bookings Officer on 0191 370 4026 or email bookings@beamish.org.uk, so alternative arrangements can be made.

Outline of Activity:

Classes are collected from the Home Farm/Pit Village Tram Stop.

This activity takes students into the depths of World War 2 where they will meet a new Special Constable struggling with an investigation into a local incident. Students will work in four groups to sift through witness accounts and documents and using their historical skills and judgement they will piece together and present the truth. They will need to discover the story for themselves by looking at real sources of variable reliability. In revealing the events,

students will have the opportunity to consider and discuss the many different factors that led to eight deaths and many more injuries to men, women and children in a quiet village during the war. **N.B. The children will be split into 4 groups. Supervising adults need to help groups to navigate their way around the Farm to meet witnesses and keep on task between interviews.**

Objectives of Activity:

This activity has been developed to help Key Stage 3 (11-14 years old) pupils meet the requirements of the National Curriculum for History, particularly improving historical skills e.g.

- Gaining a coherent knowledge and understanding of Britain's past and that of the wider world.
- Inspiring pupils' curiosity to know more about the past.
- Equipping pupils to ask perceptive questions, think critically, weigh evidence, sift arguments, and develop perspective and judgement.
- Understanding historical concepts such as cause and consequence and significance, and use them to make connections, draw contrasts, analyse trends, frame historically-valid questions and create their own structured accounts.
- Understanding the methods of historical enquiry, including how evidence is used rigorously to make historical claims, and discern how and why contrasting arguments and interpretations of the past have been constructed
- Gaining historical perspective by placing their growing knowledge into different contexts,
- Understanding the connections between local, regional, national and international history; between cultural, economic, military, political, religious and social history; and between short- and long-term timescales.
- Pursuing historically valid enquiries including some they have framed themselves, and create relevant, structured and evidentially supported accounts in response. They should understand how different types of historical sources are used rigorously to make historical claims and discern how and why contrasting arguments and interpretations of the past have been constructed.

Pupils from KS4 may find this activity a useful preparation for their controlled assessment.

Background to Activity:

It is 1944. Newcomers to Beamish village want to know what strange events took place in 1942. The current Special Police Constable has a few pieces of information which could be linked and locals have their own version of events. Names, faces, newspapers and memories must be weighed up and linked as evidence amidst censorship and traumatic, emotional tales. Pupils are challenged to make sense of it all to present a clear, factual version of events.

Activities to Prepare for the Visit:

A general introduction to the Second World War (or recap) will be sufficient. It may be useful to have a discussion about evidence that historians use and the reliability of each type.

Contact Us: If you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact **Simon Woolley** on 0191 370 4011 OR e-mail education@beamish.org.uk.

Hazard Identification Sheet – May Day, May Day!

Location: Home Farm

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
Group security issues	Children	This activity takes place at Home Farm, which will also be open to other visitors to the Museum. During the visit children will be working in groups. Children must be supervised at all times by an adult from the school. Beamish admits free supervising places at a ratio of 1 adult to 5 children.	Low	
Animals	Everyone	Home Farm is a working farm, with sheep, pigs, poultry, cattle, horses, cats and sheepdogs. Children should be advised not to touch or put anything in their mouths. Please follow directions from Beamish staff around where to stand and paths to take around animals. Visitors should not antagonise or attempt to feed any animals. Everyone should wash their hands on leaving the Farm. The nearest hand washing facilities are adjacent to The British Kitchen.	Low	
Infection from Lambs and Ewes	Pregnant Women	Beamish Museum advises pregnant women do not visit Home Farm during lambing time. Lambing presents a risk of infections such as toxoplasmosis to pregnant women. Schools must ensure any staff and students for whom this is an issue are informed so alternative arrangements can be made. If you have any questions, please contact the Museum Learning team on 0191 370 4011.	Low	
Main road at Home Farm	Everyone	A public road must be crossed to enter parts of Home Farm. Special care needs to be taken to ensure traffic is negotiated safely. A member of Beamish staff will be stood at the crossing gate and will open and close the gate to enable groups to cross the road. If you are crossing from the Farm side, members of your group must stay on the buildings side of the rope and pin fence and follow advice from Museum staff. Museum staff	Medium	The gate will be closed to prevent visitors stepping into the road. Museum staff will supervise the

		will assist with the crossing but School staff also must be proactive to ensure this is achieved safely. Museum staff are not able to stand in the middle of the road to stop the traffic.		crossing at all times. School staff to work with Museum staff to ensure a safe crossing.
Moving vehicles in Museum areas (tractors, delivery vehicles, horse drawn vehicles)	Everyone	The Museum limits vehicle movements to a minimum during opening hours, however there may be occasions when a vehicle is required to move within the Farm area. All moving machinery and animals will be accompanied by Museum staff who will direct visitors as necessary. Drivers are required to follow an on-site driving policy. Please ensure all members of your party stay behind any safety barriers/ fences and follow any instructions given by staff.	Low	
Burns from fires / Aga	Everyone	As Home Farm is portraying life in the 1940s there will be coal fires and an Aga burning during the course of the session. Beamish staff will advise the group to take care around fires before the session begins. Supervising adults should observe the children under their care to ensure that they do not stand too close to the fire and that they behave sensibly around the fire at all times. Only Museum staff are to manage the fires.	Low	
Dust/ Smoke from fires	Children and Adults with breathing difficulties	Due to the coal fires at Home Farm it is likely that there will be smoke or dust from the fire in the air. Supervising adults should inform Beamish staff of any children/adults in the group with asthma or other breathing difficulties and should ensure that they have their inhalers with them. Beamish staff will aim to ensure that the space is as ventilated as possible.	Low	
Slips and trips on uneven surfaces – e.g. rugs, stone staircase, animal excrement in yard etc.	Everyone	Ground surfaces around Home Farm include gravel, cobbles and flag stones. Parts of the activity take place in upstairs rooms. Husbandry conditions, including animal excrement, can make the ground surface in the yard slippery. Museum staff will maintain a clean environment. Children should be advised to take care and always walk around site and wear appropriate footwear to visit an open air, working farm.	Medium	Beamish staff will advise the group of slippy or uneven surfaces. Children should wear sensible shoes & be advised by supervising adults not to run.

Steep steps into or within buildings.	Everyone, People unsteady on feet	Your class may be required to climb a set of steep stone steps, Beamish Staff's instructions should be followed at all times. Children should use staircases sensibly, in single file and holding onto the hand rail. Children should be supervised whilst on the stairs by a member of school staff.	Low	
Farm machinery displays	Everyone	Home Farm presents a working farm, with farm machinery displayed around the area. These machines are likely to have sharp edges and are potentially hazardous if care is not taken. All farm machinery is regularly monitored to ensure it is as safe and secure as possible. Supervising adults should ensure that children under their care behave sensibly whilst walking around the area.	Low	
Splinters/nails and other sharp items from old buildings and/or objects	Everyone	The nature of the old buildings with bare floor boards mean there is always a risk of splinters. Museum staff will work to maintain a safe environment. Please inform Museum staff if you see anything that may cause a risk. Although care is taken with the selection of objects for this activity, the objects being used are sometimes original and it is therefore possible that some of the wooden objects may splinter or have other sharp aspects. Beamish staff will aim to ensure that all objects have smooth edges before starting the session. Accompanying adults should supervise children to ensure that due care is taken with any objects.	Low	
Climbing	Children	Adequate adult supervision should be provided by the school and pupils should be instructed not to climb objects whilst visiting Beamish.	Low	
Bees, wasps, insects stings	Everyone	Museum staff will keep the area clear of rubbish which may attract these creatures. Staff should be vigilant at all times and aware of any children with allergies, carrying any necessary preventatives or treatments. If necessary first aiders will attend.	Low	
Weather	Children and adults	Beamish is an open air museum and this activity may involve working outside. Please advise <i>all</i> participants to come dressed in suitable clothing and sturdy footwear, e.g. wearing waterproofs, warm clothing, protective sun cream and a hat children on hot days. Museum staff will keep paths clear, using grit to improve surfaces during the winter if required. Museum staff will discuss weather on arrival if needed.	Low	
Photographs	Children/ Vulnerable Adults	Please be aware that other visitors to the Museum may photograph your group, particularly if they come in costume for this activity. If this presents a problem, please inform a member of staff.	Low	

N.B. It is advised that all participants wash their hands after the activity.

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