



# The Murder Mystery

## Guidelines for Supervising Teachers

**Preparing for Your Visit:** It is strongly recommended that supervising staff should 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 is also provided in order to help you with your risk assessment.

### Practicalities:

- **Where to Go and How to Get There:** The Murder Mystery begins at Rowley Station. To get there take the tram from the Entrance in the direction of The Town and make your way towards Rowley Station, where you will be met on the platform.
- **Arriving on Time:** Please ensure you arrive at Rowley Station on time. 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 be possible.
- **What to Bring/Wear:** Children will need appropriate clothing. Beamish is an open air museum and the weather may be inclement.
- **Storage:** Bags and coats can be stored in the waiting room whilst groups are investigating in the town.
- **Toilets:** The nearest toilets are in The Town, by Barclays Bank.
- **Health and Safety Information:** Once at Rowley Station a member of staff will explain about the Health and Safety aspects of the activity. Please be aware that there is a platform with a 1m drop so care must be taken whilst on the platform.
- **Access:** Rowley Station has a number of wooden steps to access the platform from The Town and access to some of the buildings in the town will require climbing some stairs. However, the activity can be moved into another building in The Town and groups can be arranged to suit any access needs. If there is anyone in your group with access needs please contact the Bookings Officer via email at [bookings@beamish.org.uk](mailto: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 Rowley Station, the group will be escorted to the Ladies Waiting Room. Here they will find a dummy dressed in period costume. It will be obvious that something dreadful has happened to him. The purpose of this activity is to find clues on and around the 'body' which will lead to the solving of the crime.

The group should split into mixed ability groups with an adult supervisor for each group. The number of adults will determine the number of groups. Each group will then be given a clue or clues which will lead them to a different part of the town; the Dentist's Surgery, the Music Teacher's house, the Bank, the Garage, the Co-op and the Printer's Workshop. Each group should only visit the exhibits they have been led to by their own clues.

During their visit to the exhibit which corresponds to their clue pupils will 'interview' a costumed demonstrator who will provide them with information which will help solve the murder as well as providing information about the exhibits. Once they have the information they need they will make their way back to the Station to share what they have discovered with the rest of the group.

Each group will uncover an aspect of the crime; the names and addresses of the victim and murderer and the motive for the crime. Through sharing the information they have gathered, pupils will work together to solve the mystery.

**Objectives of Activity:**

- 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:** Prior to the visit pupils should be told a little about what they will be doing. They might need encouraging to be sensible whilst completing the activity.
- **Post:** Possible follow-on activities could be:
  - Write up the story of the murder in pictures or words.
  - Create a drama around the events leading up to the murder and/or the solving of it.
  - Read extracts from detective novels and explore how suspense was created and maintained and create their own piece of detective writing describing their own solving of the murder.

**Contact Us:** If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact us. Telephone Simon Woolley on 0191 370 4011 or email [education@beamish.org.uk](mailto:education@beamish.org.uk).

## Hazard Identification Sheet - Murder Mystery

Location: Rowley Station, The Town

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	Children and Adults	During the course of the activity children will be moving around The Town and station area. The ground in these areas can be uneven in places (including cobbles and curbs) and, during bad weather, can become slippery. Beamish staff will advise children to walk rather than run and supervising adults should ensure that this advice is carried out. Children should be advised to wear sturdy shoes on the day.	Low	
Falling off station platform	Children and Adults	The beginning and the end of the activity takes place in the waiting room of the station. The group will usually be met on the station platform where there is a drop onto the tracks. A Beamish staff member will meet the group and warn the group of the drop onto the platform. They will also instruct the group to keep away from the platform edge. Accompanying adults should supervise their group and ensure these instructions are followed.	Low	
Group security issues	Children	During the activity, children will be exploring different exhibits in The Town in groups. Each group must be accompanied by an adult. Beamish admits free supervising places to a ratio of 1 adult to 5 children.	Low	
Burns from fires	Children and Adults	Students will be visiting different exhibits in The Town, including some of the houses. In these, and in the station	Low	

		waiting room where the session begins and ends, there are likely to 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. Only Museum staff are to manage the fires. Supervisory adults should also monitor the behaviour of their groups to ensure due care is taken around the fires.		
Dust/smoke from fires	Children and Adults	As a result of the open coal fires in the exhibits 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 inform Beamish staff before the session begins. They should also ensure that pupils bring all necessary inhalers/medication with them on the visit.	Low	
Falling down station steps	Children and Adults	The session starts and ends at the station which is accessed across a bridge and down some steps onto the platform (although there is a wheelchair accessible route past the fairground). These steps are fairly steep and can become slippery when wet. Accompanying adults should ensure that care is taken when descending these steps and that children do not run down them.	Low	

**NB In the event the activity is moved to a more accessible location in The Town, the station risks (e.g. the platform) will not apply)**

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