



# Pockerley Old Hall

## 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. Free 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:** This activity takes place in Pockerley Old Hall. To reach Pockerley Old Hall either take a tram to Pockerley tram stop or walk down from the main entrance.
- **Arriving on Time:** If your school has the first session booked (10.30-12.00) it is advisable to walk straight to Pockerley Old Hall. 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:** If you intend to wear costume, it will save time if you arrive already dressed but please remember that children need to be warmly dressed.
- **Storage:** Anything which is not required during the activity session will be stored in the undercroft.
- **Toilets:** There are toilets round the back of the old house. A member of staff can direct you to these.
- **Health and Safety Information:** Please note that you will be in an area which is closed to the general public so please keep your party together and be aware of moving vehicles. If the paths look icy, please ask the group to take extra care. Before the session a

member of staff will go through any health and safety issues. A Hazard Identification Sheet is also enclosed to help you with your risk assessment.

- **Access:** The Pockerley Old Hall is an historic building with old and uneven steps that must be mounted in a careful and sensible manner and may be inaccessible to pupils with access needs. If there is anyone in your group with access needs please contact the Bookings Officer by emailing [bookings@beamish.org.uk](mailto:bookings@beamish.org.uk) or telephone 0191 370 4026 and will be able to advise you.

**Outline of Activity:** Both the Old and New House are used to explore what it was like to be a servant in the early 1820s. Pupils have the chance to take part in activities such as making candles and baking biscuits. They will be divided into groups and then sent to the appropriate area with an adult supervisor from your school. Some activities will be led by Beamish staff and some will be teacher led, with instructions provided. The session will end with a plenary session back in the main kitchen with pupils tasting the biscuits they have made.

**Background Information:** Below is some information about life in the early 1800s which might be useful

- **Kings and Queens:**
  - George III 1760-1820
  - George IV 1820-1830
- **Agriculture and Land**
  - Almost all of the power and money in Britain was held by a few landowners.
  - Farming was the main employer in the North East in this period.
  - A farm labourer earned about 15 shillings (75p) a week
- **Transport:**
  - In the early 1700s British roads were in very poor condition, making travel very slow. The Turnpike Act improved this after 1750; Turnpike roads were owned and looked after by a group of people who charged travellers to use their section of the road. A journey from Newcastle to London came down from 6 days to 2 non-stop days.
  - During the early years of the 1800s Richard Trevithick, John Blenkinsop, William Hedley and George Stephenson played parts in the development of steam

railways. The Stockton and Darlington Railway opened in 1825 as the world's first steam powered passenger railway. This was to see the beginning of the railway age.

- **Education:**

- In the early 19<sup>th</sup> Century there was no State education and many children received no education at all. However, there was a range of schools around the country, mostly run by religious charities.
- Although the size and quality of schools varied, the basic subjects taught were similar. Children learnt to read and write and were instructed in strict religious and moral values.

**Objectives of Activity:**

- To explore and understand what life was like in the Georgian Era
- To compare what life was like in the Georgian Era to life now

**Ideas for Pre and Post Visit:**

- **Pre:** Talk about what children do in a day and think about what tasks need to be done around a house now and how long each task usually takes.
- **Post:** Pupils could write or draw about the day in the life of a servant in the early 1820s and all the tasks they had to do. This leads to a comparison between 'then and now'. Pupils could also use their experience to write a diary extract or description of a day in the life of an 1820s servant.

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

## Hazard Identification Sheet – Pockerley Old Hall

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	The steps at Pockerley Old Hall are worn and uneven and some areas have low lighting levels. Museum staff will arrange equipment to minimise risk of trips. Children should be advised to wear sturdy shoes for the visit, to always walk around the house and to use hand rails and ropes where provided.	Low	
Fires/ candles	Children and adults	Fires will be lit in the Old House and the New House kitchen/parlour. Children will be advised to stay away from the fires and the metal guards in front of the fires. Only Museum staff are to manage the fires. Any candles will be placed out of reach of children.	Low	
Dust/ smoke	Children and adults	Open fires and candles will be lit which can lead to a smoky environment. Also, children will take part in dusting activities. Beamish staff will keep areas as well ventilated as possible. Teachers and staff should be aware of any children with allergies/asthma. Please inform Museum staff leading the activity if there is a problem and an alternative task will be provided.	Medium	Beamish staff will ensure that all participants are aware of the fact there will be a fire and potentially dust in the air. Supervisory adults should ensure that all participants have necessary inhalers etc...
Animals	Children and adults	Pigs, cats, horses and poultry live at Pockerley Old Hall, although children should not come close to the animals. Children should wash their hands before eating and drinking. The nearest hand washing facilities are at Pockerley Old Hall. Pregnant women should be advised to take extra care.	Low	

Food allergies	Children and adults	During the activity children will be helping to bake biscuits. All children will wash hands prior to the baking activity. Ingredients will include flour, oats, butter, golden syrup, ginger, salt, bicarbonate of soda. Before eating, children will wash hands. Beamish staff to check for allergies before handing out biscuits.	Low	School staff to be aware of any food allergies that would prevent children eating biscuit.
Allergies to herbs & lavender/rose flowers	Children and adults	Children may take part in activities where they handle herbs and lavender or rose flowers, which could potentially cause an allergic reaction. School and Beamish staff to check before doing activity, if there is a problem an alternative activity will be provided.	Low	
Hot tallow	Children and adults	Making candles involves pouring hot animal fat (tallow). The hot tallow will be handled by Beamish staff who will ensure children are at a safe distance.	Low	
Carding wool – carding combs have spines and handling wool.	Children and adults	If children use carding combs they will be closely supervised by Museum staff to keep them safe with the spines. Children should wash their hands to remove any grease/dirt from the wool before eating and drinking. There are hand washing facilities at Pockerley Old Hall.	Low	
Spinning wheel - spike	Children and adults	Integral to the spinning wheel is a metal spike – this will be highlighted to children if they are using the spinning wheel, which will be done under close adult supervision	Low	
Group work – security issues	Children and adults	During the visit children will be working in groups. <b>Children must be supervised at all times by an adult from the school.</b> Beamish admits free supervising places at a ratio of 1 adult to 5 children.	Low	
Winter weather – ice, snow, cold	Children and adults	Beamish is an open air museum. Please advise all participants on the trip to come dressed in warm clothing – winter coats, gloves, hats and sturdy shoes. Museum staff will keep paths clear and use grit to improve surfaces. Museum staff will advise teachers on the situation on arrival and react to conditions should they deteriorate.	Low	

**NB: It is advised that all participants wash their hands after the activity.**

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