



The Potter Problem

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.

NOTE: It is advised that you prepare your class for the fact that there will be a coffin in the Chapel. It would be advisable to identify any pupils who might be sensitive about the topic under discussion or the presence of a coffin.

Practicalities:

- **Where to Go and How to Get There:** The Potter Problem 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 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 the 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 she will be able to advise you.

Outline of Activity:

On being met at the Chapel the group will be asked to split into four 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 Henry Potter (16 years and 6 months old) who has died in Mary Pit. Once inside the Chapel they will be faced with a coffin and asked what information they have gathered from the notice outside the Chapel. They will then be asked to play the role of investigators and, by interviewing different people, uncover what has happened, what Henry Potter was like and who was responsible for his death (if anyone). Each group will be given a different person to interview and will therefore hear information from a different point of view. They will then report what they have found to the rest of the group. After listening to each group they must decide, as a whole, who they think is responsible and what changes/actions they would recommend. They must also decide on a logical and fair recommendation to make to make sure that the incident is not repeated.

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.
- Understand bias and the influence of an individual's perspective on the information they provide relating to an event. How does this effect historical records?

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.
- **Post:** Using the Potter Problem 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 us at the Museum. Telephone **Simon Woolley** on 0191 370 4011 or e-mail education@beamish.org.uk.

Hazard Identification Sheet- The Potter Problem

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. There are a variety of ground surfaces including stone flags and gravel, curbs, steps and tracks in places. 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 the pit cottages and the school. In these areas there will be coal fires lit. There may also be a fire in the chapel. Beamish staff will advise students to stay away from the fire and guards will be kept in front of the fires. Supervisory adults should supervise students under their care to ensure safe behaviour.	Low	
Dust/smoke	Students and Adults	As a result of 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 they have any necessary medication. Please inform Beamish staff before the session begins if necessary.	Low	
Group work/security issues	Students	During the visit students will be working in groups. As far as possible all groups should be accompanied by an 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. All students should stay in the Pit Village area.	Low	

Trip hazards at the mine	Students and Adults	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 including rails on the ground and varying ground surfaces. Beamish staff will warn children of any trip hazards. Accompanying staff should reinforce this message and supervise the children under their care to ensure they are being careful and sensible.	Low	
Steps into buildings	Students 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	
Vehicles on The Pit Village road	Students and Adults	During the session participants will be moving around the Pit Village and will therefore be crossing the road through the village. Although there is little traffic, a bus regularly comes in and out of the village and museum vehicles also move through. All drivers will be following the Beamish Museum on-site driving policy and adhering to strict speed limits. Beamish staff will warn the group to be careful on the road and accompanying adults should ensure that these instructions are followed. Accompanying adults should supervise groups to ensure that care is taken when moving around The Pit Village, particularly across the road.	Low	
Steep steps up to the heap stead	Students and Adults	If no staff are available at the mine to speak to pupils, groups might be directed to the heap stead to speak to a member of staff there. 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	
Equipment – clip boards, pencils	Students	Students will be using clip boards and pencils in the activity. All equipment will be age appropriate and students will be supervised to ensure safe behaviour.	Low	

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