



# Waterplay at Pockerley

## 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 Garden. 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 beginning at 10.30am 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:** Please bring your own waterproof clothing for this activity, as children will get wet when playing with the water. Additional footwear (wellies, sandals) is advisable.
- **Storage:** The garden is cordoned off to general visitors while being used for the Waterplay activity. Bags can be kept in the garden, staff will advise you on a safe location.
- **Toilets:** There are toilets round the back of the old house. A member of staff can direct you to these.
- **Health and Safety Information:** This activity is an outdoor activity and takes place during the summer season only. Delivery will continue during rainy

weather as well as sunny weather, so please do bring waterproof clothing. The garden is cordoned off from the general visitors during the activity, although visitors can watch the session from the top garden. 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 House is an historic building with old and uneven steps that must be mounted in a careful and sensible manner. (It may be inaccessible to pupils with access needs). There is an accessible entrance to the lower garden (where the activity takes place) and the garden itself that has no steps within it. An Access bus is available and can take any members of your group with access needs to locations around the museum. If there is anyone in your group with access needs please contact our Bookings Officer on 0191 370 4026 or email [bookings@beamish.org.uk](mailto:bookings@beamish.org.uk) and they will be able to advise you.

### **Outline of the Activity**

Waterplay at Pockerley is an opportunity for children to explore the qualities of water in an historic setting. Taking inspiration from the Georgian Garden and Manor House, children create their own experiments to see how water can be moved, mixed, splashed, painted and contained. Through such outdoor explorative play, children can further engage with nature and with the weather. This activity links directly to the foundation stage curriculum, and direct comparisons can be made between past and present to help develop a sense of chronology (how do we wash clothes, how do we clean dishes ...) Photographs can be taken during the activity to record events.

### **Objectives of Activity:**

- To talk about how water was used in the past and compare this with how we use water in our homes today (*EYFS, People and Communities*)
- To find out about the properties of water and explore how we can change these (*EYFS, The World*)
- To explore a variety of tools, materials and techniques (*EYFS, Exploring and using media and materials*)

- To work together with others on tasks (*EYFS, Making Relationships, Managing feelings and behaviour*)
- To take part in discussions - describing observations and listening to the ideas of others (*EYFS, Listening and attention, Understanding, Speaking*)

**Ideas for Pre and Post Visit work:**

- **Pre:** Explore how water is used in a contemporary setting with children: water in nature (sea, rivers, rain etc) washing clothes, food preparation, bathing and hygiene, leisure activities etc.
- **Post:**
  - look at poems, songs and stories on the subject of water.
  - photographs of the activity can be used to inspire classroom discussions and displays.

**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](mailto:education@beamish.org.uk).

## Hazard Identification Sheet – Waterplay at Pockerley

Location: Pockerley Old Hall Garden

Children will be given access to water and period equipment in Pockerley gardens, so they can explore and experiment. This links directly to the Early Years foundation stage curriculum.

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
Infection from dirty water	Pupils and Adults	During this activity children will be playing with water. There are 3 water troughs located in the garden that remain open to the elements and contain rainwater. They are very dirty. If children were to play in these troughs there is a risk of stomach illnesses, sickness, and skin infections. Children and staff are told not to use water in public troughs. Wooden lids are to be placed over troughs during the activity to prevent access. Barrels with plastic flexi tubs will be used specifically for this activity to control cleanliness. Water used during the activity will be a new supply each time. Old water will be tipped out after each session.	Medium	Staff and pupils will be told to wash hands before eating.  Children will be told not to put fingers in mouths after using water.
Illness from prolonged wearing of wet clothing	Pupils and Adults	Children playing with water (doing moving, pouring, and mixing tasks) will become wet: feet, legs, arms and anywhere else that has been splashed. If wet shoes and clothing are to be worn after the activity for the rest of the visit there is the risk of children developing illnesses or chaffed skin. Beamish Museum advises Schools to come in their own waterproof clothing. School staff can assist children to change clothing in the near-by public toilets, or the inside staff toilet, which can be bolted from the inside.	Low	

Sharp or unsafe containers from collection	Pupils and Adults	Children will be using a range of containers to explore the qualities of water. Some of these may be from the museum collection (to create historical accuracy and the immersive nature of the experience) if period containers have sharp edges there is a risk of minor cuts. Period containers to be checked regularly for safety by Beamish Staff.	Low	
Slipping on wet surfaces	Pupils and Adults	Flag stones in the garden may become slippery if lots of water and leaves collect during the session. There would then be a risk of falls causing bumps, bruises, grazes, or cuts. Beamish Staff will monitor the ground to maintain safety and to ensure there is no build-up of wet leaves or mud on flag stones.	Low	
Heavy objects and containers	Beamish Staff, Pupils and Adults	Some buckets or watering cans may be heavy when filled with water. If attempting to lift containers which are too heavy, there is a risk of developing a strain. Also heavy containers may be dropped, resulting in broken bones. Beamish staff will monitor the activity to ensure children do not lift heavy containers/objects.	Medium	School staff will be requested to assist children during the activity and help monitor this also.
Lost children	Pupils	There are 2 gateways and one set of stone steps which lead into the garden. There could be a risk of a child wandering out of one of these entrances and becoming lost on site. Pockerley garden will be enclosed to ensure safety during the session. It will be used solely by the school group during the activity. Hurdles will be positioned to close the access points within the garden, preventing children leaving unsupervised. The hurdles will also stop members of the public merging with group. Members of the public will still be able to see into the garden and watch the activity as it takes place. Beamish staff will point out to children and school staff where area boundaries are.	Medium	School staff must supervise children at all times to ensure no children wander off unattended.  School adult-to-child ratio allowed by Beamish is 1 – 3. This is to facilitate effective supervision and ensure safety.

Uneven ground in orchard	Pupils and Adults	Children and school staff will be taken into the orchard to water the trees there. There is a slight slope in the orchard and the ground is uneven in parts. There is a risk of minor bumps and bruises from falling over. Beamish staff will supervise anyone entering the orchard. School Adults or a Beamish staff member should support children as they walk around in the orchard, to avoid falls. No running is allowed.	Low	
Implements in potting shed.	Pupils	Children and school staff will be invited into the potting shed to spot and carry containers that can be used for water-play. (containers have been chosen and placed 'strategically' for children to find, by Beamish staff before the session begins) The shed also stores a range of tools on the walls, which are on display for visitors to see. There is a risk of items falling onto children and causing injury if children attempt to take heavy tools off the walls. Beamish staff will fully explain this task to the lead member of staff. To prevent accidents, a small number of children will be invited into the potting shed if staff would like to do this task. A school staff member will be asked to choose the group, and accompany the children. The 'half door' will be placed against the tool wall as a screen, to ensure children cannot touch anything. Children are not to be left unattended in the potting shed. The shed is very open and has no door – it only has a 'half door'. It is a very public space, designed for visitors to see into. Beamish staff will not take children into this space without a school staff member present.	Medium	<p>Children to be chosen by school staff according to their suitability to the activity.</p> <p>School staff must accompany children into the potting shed at all times.</p> <p>The half door will be replaced once the task is completed to ensure no child enters unattended.</p>
Small items e.g. stones	Children	Within the garden there are small items such as stones which will be used in the activity e.g. dropping stones into buckets of water. Museum staff will warn children not to put objects in their mouths and all staff should supervise children.	Low	

Eating plants	Children	Within the garden there are a wide range of plants, some of which could cause illness if consumed. Museum staff will warn children not to put plants in their mouths and all staff should supervise children.	Low	
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**Date Reviewed:** 19<sup>th</sup> March 2015

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