



The Somme

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 to help you with your risk assessment.

Practicalities:

- **Where to go and how to get there:** The Somme activity begins in The Chapel. To get there, either take the tram from the Entrance in the direction of The Town, get off at the Home Farm stop and walk down into The Pit Village, use the access route from the entrance or take 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 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/Where:** Pupils will need appropriate clothing. Beamish is an open air museum and the weather may be inclement. Please ensure students wear suitable sturdy footwear e.g. trainers rather than ballet pumps.
- **Toilets:** The nearest toilets are in The Lamp Cabin, next to the Drift Mine or beside Hetton Band Hall.
- **Health and Safety Information:** A Hazard Identification Sheet is provided with your booking in order to advise you of any possible risks or hazards.
- **Access:** An Access 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 they will be able to advise you.

Objectives of Activity:

The activity aims to:

- Acknowledge and commemorate the significance of the Battle of the Somme, its effects on local communities and its legacy.
- Enable students to engage in an enquiry based learning activity, interviewing characters and gathering information on attitudes towards the War, the battle of the Somme and its impact on communities and families.
- Engage students in a debate to compare and contrast information gathered and express views on the Somme campaign.

During the session students will:

- Explore the events and impact of the Somme campaign on Durham mining communities, both in practical and emotional terms, discover the story of the Conscientious Objectors and find out how the War is viewed on the Home Front in 1916.
- Put themselves into the past and consider the views they would have held if they had been around at this moment in history.

Outline of Activity:

On being met at The Chapel the group will be asked to split into four or five groups. The students will be met by a member of staff who will inform them that they must find out the views and feelings of the village community at this time as the Battle of the Somme draws to a close.

To help them to do this they will visit different characters in the pit community. Pupils will need to ask questions to find out about people's attitudes towards the war and consider what has happened and how emotions have changed since 1914. Groups will then report on what they have discovered and decide together what they think given the different situations.

Curriculum Links

History KS3 Challenges for Britain, Europe and the wider world 1901 to the present day.
Examples (non statutory) The First World War and the Peace Settlement
Social, Moral, Spiritual and Cultural curriculum.

The activity links directly to the identified 'British Values' e.g. Democracy, the Rule of Law, individual liberty, mutual respect and tolerance to those with different faiths and beliefs.

The opportunity to compare and contrast attitudes and beliefs in 1916 with contemporary Britain and relevant issues e.g. the Middle East situation with particular reference to individual liberty and dissent.

Contact Us: If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact Simon Woolley on 0191 370 4011 or email education@beamish.org.uk.

Hazard Identification Sheet –The Somme

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 uneven and can be slippery. Beamish staff will advise participants to take care. Supervisory adults should ensure that all the students are wearing appropriate and sturdy footwear (e.g. trainers, not ballet pumps).	Low	
Fires	Students and Adults	Students will be visiting different areas, including two of the pit cottages and the school. In these areas there will 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. Only Museum staff are to manage the fires. Supervisory adults should monitor the behaviour of the students under their care.	Low	
Dust/smoke	Students and Adults	As a result of the open 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 participants have necessary medication. Please inform Beamish staff if there is a problem and an alternative arrangements will be made.	Low	
Vehicles on The Pit Village road	Children and Adults	During the session participants will be moving around The Pit Village area and will therefore be crossing the road through the Village. Although there is little traffic there is a bus which regularly comes down into the village. 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 ensure that care is taken when moving around The Pit Village.	Low	

Steps into buildings	Children and Adults	Children will be going into the chapel, the school and 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 students in their care.	Low	
Trip hazards at the mine	Children and Adults	As part of the session 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 such as rails on the ground. Beamish staff will warn students of any trip hazards. Accompanying staff should reinforce Beamish staffs' message and supervise the children under their care to ensure they are being careful and sensible.	Low	
Steep steps up to the heap stead	Children and Adults	If no staff are available at the mine or they are too busy to speak to pupils needing to interview them, groups might be directed to the heap stead to speak to a member of staff. 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 – pencils, clip boards	Children	All equipment used will be age appropriate. Students should be supervised by school staff to ensure sensible behaviour.	Low	
Group work- security issues	Students and Adults	During the visit students will be working in groups, some of which will not be accompanied by a supervisory 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.	Low	

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