



General Hazard Identification Sheet

This is a guideline, designed to aid visiting teachers in completing their own LEA risk assessment forms. It is NOT intended to be a replacement for a teacher-conducted LEA risk assessment. Beamish The Living Museum of the North accepts no liability if this is used as such. The Museum has Public Liability insurance cover with Axa Insurance UK PLC for £15 million. Policy number BL CMB 7107363. This is renewed annually on 1st April.

Any accident caused by equipment brought into the Museum by a visiting party is not covered by the Museum's Public Liability insurance, but should be covered by the school's.

Teachers and supervisors of educational parties are ultimately responsible for the actions of their students and should undertake their own risk assessment prior to a visit. Complimentary tickets are available when a booking is made.

In order to create a safe and enjoyable atmosphere for your visit, we expect educational groups - as with all other paying visitors - to listen to and read advice provided by Beamish staff both during and in advance of your visit.

The following document contains words such as "under supervision", "supervised" and "adult supervisor(s)". It should be clear that this means *accompanied* by an adult.

It is simply not enough to know where your students are – you must be *present and attending*.

What to do in Case of Emergency

If you lose a child:

Notify a member of staff. We have a radio-relay system here, designed to deal with potential problems such as this. Most areas are manned by a member of staff during opening hours. All general areas are within radio and/or telephone contact.

First Aid:

All areas of the Museum have a trained first aider on call. If first aid is needed please notify a member of staff and they will contact the nearest trained first aider.

Potential Hazards and their Prevention

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
Moving children between the 'coach park' bay and the Museum	Children	The 'Coach park' is situated in a location where there is medium traffic flow. Teachers should request for buses to park so as to minimise the distance from the bus to the path. An adult from the school, wearing visible clothing, should supervise children disembarking from the coach and direct them to the path. The group should straight away move from the bus park using the paths available rather than walking across the bus parking area. Between the coach park and the building the group will need to cross a gated access road into the Museum which is occasionally used by Museum vehicles. Children will walk past the bus stop and enter through a side gate to the left of the main building. Please follow any directions given by Museum staff supervising the Entrance/Coach park. Although the children will not (usually) pass through the main building, they can access the building and use the toilets.	Low	
Slips and trips in the Museum	Children/ Adults	Beamish is an open-air museum. There are varied walking surfaces throughout. The site contains some steep ascents and descents. Maintaining period features such as cobbled roads, shallow kerbs and tram-rails is essential to the experience but they can create tripping or slipping hazards.	Low	

		Beamish takes all reasonable care to minimise any possible accidents by maintaining the paths and walkways. There are first aid staff stationed throughout the site. All visitors should wear suitable, flat healed, sturdy shoes and must stay within the visitor areas. Children should be accompanied by supervising adults at all times.		
Main road at Home Farm	Children/ Adults	A public road must be crossed to enter parts of Home Farm. Special care needs to be taken to ensure traffic is negotiated safely. A member of Beamish staff will be standing at the crossing gate and will open and close the gate to enable groups to cross the road. At busy times the gate will be left open, but a member of Museum staff will be present to supervise the safe crossing of the road. If you are crossing from the Farm side, members of your group must stay on the buildings side of the rope and pin fence and follow advice from Museum staff. Museum staff will assist with the crossing but School staff must also be proactive to ensure this is achieved safely. Museum staff are not able to stand in the middle of the road to stop the traffic.	Medium	Museum staff will supervise the road crossing at all times. School staff to work with Museum staff to ensure a safe crossing.
Fires inside buildings	Children/ Adults	The majority of fires have guards and staff members are trained in safe working practices. Children should be advised to remain at a safe distance from heat sources. Only Museum Staff are allowed to manage the fires.	Low	
Accidental fire on-site	Children/ Adults	A fire risk assessment is in place and held by the Museum. Fire provisions are kept up to date. Before the school enters the Museum each adult should be assigned a number of children for whom they are responsible. In the event of a fire alarm each of these adults must ensure that the children they are responsible for exit the building with them, following the directions of Museum staff. It is not permitted to re-enter a building until Museum staff say it is safe to do so.	Low	

Food	Children/ Adults	Food samples are handed out across the Museum as part of the visitor experience e.g. sweet samples in the sweet shop or samples of baking in the houses. Accompanying school staff must be aware of any allergies or food issues affecting children under their care and step in to stop children taking samples if necessary. Please ask the costumed staff if you require details of ingredients and allergens and they will be happy to help.	Low	
Children straying from the main group	Children	The accompanying adults should constantly supervise children to ensure that they behave in the correct manner and check that they do not stray or enter locations where they should not be. Beamish admits free supervising places to a ratio of 1 adult to five children/students for 5 years and over, and 1 adult to three children for under 5s. If a child has been lost please notify a member of staff so the child looked for using the radio relay system. All areas are also equipped with telephones.	Low	
Children attempting to climb trees/walls/fences/exhibits	Children	The open-air site has numerous trees, fences, walls and static industrial exhibits such as a steam digger. Supervising adults must insist children do not attempt to climb them.	Low	
Animals	Children/ Adults	There are a number of animals on site, including cats, horses, pigs, goats, rabbits, cattle, poultry, canaries, sheep and sheepdogs. Children should be advised by supervising adults not to touch animals and if children do visit the farm or stable areas, to wash their hands afterwards and before eating/drinking. Visitors must stay within the visitor areas of the Museum, for example: it is not permitted to enter fields or pens containing livestock. Children should be instructed not to antagonise any animals on site and not to attempt to feed them. Particular care should be taken at Home Farm	Low	

		and the stable areas in The Town, Pit Village and Pockerley Old Hall, as husbandry conditions, including animal excrement, can make the floor slippery. Museum staff will maintain a clean environment. Staff working with the animals are fully trained to do so. Please follow any directions given by Museum staff to ensure your safety around the animals.		
Risk of infection from ewes and lambs	Pregnant women	Lambing takes place at Home Farm and Spainsfield Farm. Beamish Museum advises pregnant women do not visit Home Farm or Spainsfield Farm during lambing time and stay clear of areas with ewes and lambs. Lambing presents a risk of infections such as toxoplasmosis to pregnant women. Schools must ensure any staff and students for whom this is an issue are informed so alternative arrangements can be made.	Low	
Drift Mine	Children/ Adults	The Drift Mine features workings from an actual mine, and visitors can be escorted by trained staff into the mine to experience period mining conditions. The mine is operated under the Mines & Quarries Act and must comply with stringent Health and Safety procedures. The main hazards relate to the possible presence of explosive or suffocating gases. The mine is dark, and the ceiling is low. Schools should advise pupils to wear suitable, sturdy footwear for their visit. All education groups must be supervised by a member of school staff during a trip down the mine. The mine is not accessible to wheelchair users.	Medium	A dedicated ventilation system is in place and gas detection equipment is operated by a qualified Pit Deputy. A secondary emergency exit is also maintained. Any persons entering the mine must wear protective headgear to

				prevent knocks to the head. The mine is lit with an electric lighting system.
The Fairground	Children/ Adults	The fairground contains a number of traditional rides and activities which can vary, including: Gallopers - Steep high steps to gain access to the ride. Children need to be able to hold confidently to the moving horse, which moves up and down, giving the rider a feeling of being at significant height. It also rotates at a fast running speed. Small carousel - Potential to step on or off whilst in motion. Helter skelter – Long climb up stairs. Fast slide with the potential to strike edges. Side shows - Involving throwing or rolling balls/hoops. Sweets/ lollipops / coconuts may be given as prizes. Please inform fairground staff of allergies or any other reason that children cannot be given these items. Shuggy boats - Require participants to pull ropes to make the boat swing. Children need to be strong enough to make this work. To gain access to the ride children need to negotiate steep steps and a gap between the boat and step. All spectators must remain out of reach of the swinging boats to avoid being hit by a moving boat. Chairoplanes - High steps, fast motion and the need to climb into hanging seats. The fairground is managed by an external operator. All participants must follow all instructions given by fairground staff and age/height restrictions displayed. Children must be	Medium	Instructions of Fairground staff must be followed in all matters to ensure safety.

		supervised by a responsible adult at all times. There is no access to rides or activities when they are not staffed.		
Eating lunch in the Porter Room, Museum Room in Masonic Hall, Lamp Cabin, Bowling Pavilion and Band Hall	Children/ Adults	Heaters are in place and there is non-fixed seating. Adults are to supervise children. There are steps leading up to the Porter Room and Museum room. These have been fitted with handrails to aid access. Adults should position themselves at the top and bottom of these stairs, as they are steep. Children/Adults must walk up and down them in single file using the handrail so that they do not fall. Folding chairs are sometimes used in this space and care must be taken to ensure children do not rock on chairs or trap their fingers in them. All children are to be supervised at all times by a responsible adult. As the doors are left open, there may also be members of the general public who wander in. Supervising adults must be aware at all times of the whereabouts of the members of their group and who their group may be speaking to. All children are to be supervised at all times by a responsible adult.	Low	
Construction Sites	Children/ Adults	As Beamish is an ever-expanding Museum, groups are likely to come across areas of construction. These areas will be clearly marked and guarded by fences. Adults should ensure they supervise the children in their group to ensure that they do not cross these barriers and enter out of bounds areas. The point at which construction traffic must cross a pavement is supervised by Museum staff. Any instructions must be followed to ensure safety is maintained.	Low	
Site Transportation and Vehicles	Children/ Adults	Site vehicle movements involve trams, carriages, buses, steam locomotive, cars, bicycles and horse drawn vehicles moving in public areas. There is a site imposed speed limit of	High	No activities other than pedestrians or safe-height

		12 mph, and all unnecessary traffic is confined as much as possible to non-public areas, or outside of opening hours. All vehicles are maintained by the Museum to safe operating standards and only certified drivers are used. Care should be taken while boarding and alighting any such transport. Particular care should be taken on the top-deck of the trams and buses. Children should behave sensibly, remain seated during transit, and should be accompanied by an adult. There are high steps up to the buses and trams which may be difficult for small children. Supervising adults should help those in their care to manage the step. The train platforms at the Waggonway and Town Station present a significant drop from the platform to the track. Children should be supervised in these areas to ensure safe behaviour and school staff should ensure children and students in their care keep to visitor areas and pavements and do not walk down vehicle only access roads or go onto train tracks. The electric tramway utilises a live un-insulated 550 volt D.C. overhead electric supply, which presents a serious electrocution hazard. All children are to be supervised at all times by a responsible adult.		vehicles are permitted in the vicinity of the overhead wire. In the event of an emergency, the power to the overhead wires can be immediately cut off by an emergency stop switch.
Playground in 1950s	Children	There is a playground in the 1950s area of the Museum. The play equipment has been designed, built and is maintained to modern standards for the enjoyment of children aged 12 and under. It is checked daily by Museum staff and annually by an external body. The playground is unstaffed. Children must be supervised at all times by a responsible adult. Please be aware that the ground surfaces in the playground area vary and there are edges between different surfaces. These could present a slip/trip hazard. Children should be	Low	

		supervised to ensure they move around the area safely and appropriately for the conditions. Please report any damage to a member of the Museum staff. The Welfare Hall is always staffed.		
Photographs	Children/ vulnerable adults	Please be aware that other visitors to the Museum may photograph your group, particularly if they come in costume or take part in a costumed activity, such as the Suffragettes. If this presents a problem, please inform a member of staff.	Low	
Weather	Children/ adults	Beamish is an open air museum and your group will spend a significant part of their day outside. Please ensure they come dressed appropriately for the weather conditions. In the winter, warm coats, hats and gloves are essential as even inside our exhibits it can be very cold. In the summer, please be prepared with sun hats and water. At all times, sensible sturdy shoes are essential.	Low	

Reviews

The Hazard ID sheets are reviewed regularly to reflect changes and developments at Beamish Museum.

Date of last review: 18 June 2026

Date of next review: 1st April 2027 Simon Woolley, Head of Learning

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Does Beamish have a completed Risk Assessment?

Beamish has a complete site risk assessment, available to all Museum staff. We advise that any teacher who is in the process of planning a visit should first read the Hazard Identification Advice Sheet AND also make a visit to the site itself, for which purpose free tickets are available when booking. If a specific activity is booked teachers will also receive the relevant Risk Assessment Sheet for the activity.

2. Can I use mobile phones whilst in the Museum, in case of emergency?

Yes, you may bring mobile phones into the Museum, although it would be appreciated if their use was confined to appropriate times (i.e. making sure that the ringer is switched off during activities). Bear in mind that the Museum is in a topographical basin, and that mobile phones often only pick up a weak signal, if any. If you need to contact someone outside the Museum in an emergency, ask a member of staff for assistance. We have landlines, first-aid boxes and first-aid qualified staff in key areas on-site.

3. Who will the children be speaking to?

The children are encouraged to interact with the costumed demonstrators. This is part of the appeal and experience of the Beamish experience! The costumed demonstrators have attended training programmes on dealing with visitor needs, including those of school parties. The majority of staff members delivering learning activities have undergone DBS checks. We advise visiting teachers to pay attention to whom their children are talking (e.g. other visiting members of the public) and do not leave their groups unattended at any time.

4. Will bad weather conditions be a problem?

As Beamish is an open-air museum, bear in mind that inclement weather is a concern. If the weather is considered to be a health and safety risk (e.g. blizzard conditions, icy underfoot etc), the Museum reserves the right to close or to evacuate the site safely. Children should dress appropriately and come prepared to be outside in the weather forecast for the time of year, e.g. sun screen, water, sun hats in summer, warm coats, hats, gloves in winter.

5. What if we lose an item?

The Museum has a lost property system. Please ask a member of staff to find out if an item has been handed in. It is also advisable to contact the main office on 0191 370 4000 after your visit to see if it has been found after your visit. Valuables such as I-pads, phones, wallets containing money, watches and jewellery are brought at the discretion of the school, and Beamish Museum accepts no responsibility for damage or loss on site.

6. Lunch spaces

Lunch time slots in the following spaces: Porter Room next to the Stable Yard in The Town, Museum Room in the Masonic Hall in the Town, Silver Band Hall in the Pit Village, Bowling Pavilion in the 1950s and Lamp Cabin in the Pit Village. Slots will be allocated for all groups visiting the Museum in case of rain. Groups from the same school (as far as possible) will use the same space. It is therefore important that supervisors ensure the group are in the right place at the right time. Please leave the lunch space as you would wish to find it. If it is a lovely sunny day then groups are welcome to have their lunches in the open air.