

CEMA

School and College visits to the Replica Trench at the Kent Show Ground Detling

1. Access and Arrival

The site is accessed from the A249 North and is sign posted as 'Show Ground' on Detling Hill. At the 'T' junction at the end of the main drive turn right towards Gate 1 and follow the road round to Gate 3. Look for black arrows on a white circular backing.

In case of questions please call the mobile number provided in your booking

2. Parking

There is space for multiple mini buses or coaches and coaches can turn round to face the exit using a side road near Gate 4. Parking is free all day.

3. Toilets

There are ample male/female and disabled access toilets, which can be accessed on foot, via Gate 3. However, after a long journey or if disabled access is required vehicles can drive directly to the toilets via the main showground gate. Please inform telephone or us in advance so we can guide you in and meet you on arrival. Coaches can then proceed back through the main gate to site as in 1. Above. See map.

4. Meet and Greet

On arrival a member of the Centre for Experimental Military Archaeology (CEMA) staff will meet you. Depending upon numbers the party will be divided into groups of roughly 15/20 allowing for a rotation of activities on site. This can be done in advance.

5. Privacy

The site is on private land so no member of the public can access the area although there may be members of the Kent Show Ground staff or contactors on site.

6. Precautions already taken

The site has been used regularly for educational visits and the CEMA staff are experienced in leading groups through the activities and trench visit. They will be on location at all times. They are familiar with emergency procedures, location of first aid kits, etc.

We would suggest a preliminary visit by a member of staff who will be present on the day of the visit

7. Health and Safety

We would suggest at least one member of staff is a trained First Aider

The nearest Accident and Emergency unit is Maidstone Hospital, Hermitage Lane, Maidstone, ME16 9QQ, 7 miles away or a 15-minute drive

CEMA staff should be made aware in advance of any medical conditions or allergies that may impact a visit or participation in activities. Students in wheelchairs may not be able to enter the trench but a viewing platform is available.

If a member of staff or student becomes unwell the part leader is asked to inform CEMA staff so appropriate steps can be taken and though should be given to student staff ratios if a student has to leave site. In an emergency CEMA will have a car available to take a member of staff or student to local Accident and Emergency unit. In this case a member of school staff must accompany the CEMA driver. An alternative precaution is to have at least one car driver from the school/college on site.

No running is allowed on site and within the area of the trenches all visitors must have hands out of pockets in case of slips or trips.

No one for any reason must risk jumping a trench, however narrow it may appear.

The barbed wire is replica with plastic barbs but it is wise to stay clear of barriers or entanglements

There may be fires or candle on site and all visitors are reminded that these will be hot.

8. Briefing

On arrival a member of CEMA staff will give a health and Safety briefing, indicate the location of the various activities and that of the relevant toilet block

Clear instructions will be given to students by CEMA staff before any physical activity or handling of artefacts

Staff should have mobile phones and appropriate contact details for school and parents if applicable.

Students should be told to bring waterproof clothing and wear suitable footwear for a trench visit. Coach companies may require a change of footwear on return to the vehicle and a plastic bag to carry soiled footwear

No live weapons or pyrotechnics will be on site during a visit. However the area is used for clay pigeon shoot and students should be instructed not to pick up fired/spent cartridge cases

To avoid dehydration staff and students are encouraged to bring drinks. The tap water on site is not suitable to refill bottles.

Time and space will be available for consumption of refreshments at suitable times and bin bags will be available for rubbish disposal on site

Student staff ratios to be in line with the standard UK school trip guidelines

On arrival a member of CEMA staff will give a health and Safety briefing, indicate the location of the various activities and that of the relevant toilet block

Students can use the toilets at any time in a visit but only with permission from their own staff.

In the event of cold or wet weather, on most occasions, we have access to either tented or indoor space for teaching. However, should a booking clash with an event on site indoor spaces may not be available.

We suggest that the issues raised above be included in the school/college's own Risk Assessment.

9. COVID 19

As the site is largely outdoors the current requirements means that masks may not be necessary. However, in the enclosed dugout, toilets, classrooms etc. these may be required. Please let CEMA know if your institution mandates masks as CEMA staff can easily do this and inform other users to do so.

At present school and college groups will not meet other users during a visit. This may change as restrictions are eased over time.

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