Rationale for visiting the Highland Folk Museum

The draft proposals for Social Studies in A Curriculum for Excellence state that:-

"Children and young people participating in experiences and outcomes in social studies will:

- develop an understanding of how Scotland has developed as a nation, resulting in an appreciation of their local and national heritage within the global community
- broaden their understanding of the world by learning about human activities and achievements in the past and present

In social studies, effective learning and teaching will draw upon a variety of approaches including:

- planned active learning with opportunities to observe, explore, experiment and play
- collaborative and independent learning
- learning outdoors, field trips, visits and external contributors."

Standard Grade Unit I – Scotland and Britain 1750-1850 or 1830-1930 or 1880s to Present Day all examine "health and housing in rural and urban areas"

The Highland Folk Museum is a living history site. It is an invaluable teaching resource which can only enhance pupils' appreciation of their local heritage. Staff on site dress authentically for the time period and are available to answer questions.

The Museum offers a range of activities and experiences which are worthwhile, purposeful and relevant to Secondary pupils such as:

- Life in a 1700s Highland Township
- 1930s Farm Steading
- Various farm implements from the 1900s
- 1950s Summer House
- Experience a school lesson from the 1930s
- The Railway Halt
- And much more …….

Preparation for the field trip

1. A 20 minute DVD about the site and Visitor Guide is available.
2. A map of the site.
3. Pupils should be organized into groups of no more than 15.
4. Depending on the weather pupils should wear warm, waterproof clothing, good footwear or bring sun cream and protective hats.
5. The café is available or pupils can bring a packed lunch. Picnic benches are on site. (Café must be pre-booked)
6. This is a public museum and there may be a significant number of tourists also visiting the site.
7. If groups wish a 1930s lesson in the school, timing of this should be prearranged.
8. A minimum of 3 hours (including lunch) should be set aside for the visit.

On site useful information

- This is a large open Museum which is a mile long.
- The car park is in the middle of the site.
- Toilets, café and a shop are next to the entrance. Pupil should use toilets before they visit the site as there limited facilities at farm.
- It may be useful to divide your party into groups and have timings for each location bearing in mind that the site is a mile long.

e.g.

Time	Township	School	Steading
11.40 – 12.10	Group 1	Group 2	Group 3
12.10 – 12.40	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
12.40 – 1.20	Group 3	Group 1	Group 2
1.20 - 1400	Group 2	Group 3	Group 1

<u>An example of what Teachers and pupils can expect:</u>

Township

Pupils will see staff in period costume and be able to enter the different types of houses, e.g. the Tacksmans house. Staff will answer any relevant questions pupils may have. Pupils can freely walk around the Township and see for themselves what life was like.

School

Pupils will be able to experience a 1930s school lesson within the school. Please ensure that all pupils arrive in time if a pre arranged lesson has been booked.

Farm Steading

Pupils will be able to visit the 1930s Tin House, Farm Seading, Dairy, Railway waiting room, Post Office and Sweetie Shop. Pupils can freely wander around and view the displays.

Risk assessment considerations

- Strong sensible walking shoes must be worn.
- Pupils should also have rainproof clothing, sun cream and hats as it is an open museum.
- Deaf pupils should not be at a disadvantage as much of the trip is visual.
- Partially sighted pupils will need to be guided inside and outside the Township houses. These houses are very dark and have open fires.
- This is a public site and pupils must be supervised at all times.
- Houses may have open fires in the centre of the main room. The rooms can become very smoky. At least one Township house each day is left without a fire.

Pupil activities

- There are few labels as most displays are in the form of live settings.
- Teachers should make their own worksheets to suit or amend existing worksheets.

<u>Secondary Pupils' comments</u>

Callum age 14. *"It was better than learning from books. I would recommend it for our age" "its is active history".*

Ainsleigh age 14. *"The museum was interesting because it taught me what it was like to live in the blackhouse, what school lessons were like." "it makes me appreciate the time I live in today"*

Andrew age 14. *"I think the museum was interesting because we got to see what it was like to live then, you could visualise it. I will go back again."*

Kellie age 13 *"its brilliant, tons of stuff to look at and do".*