

EAST RIDING MUSEUMS



Photo: Richard Young

Group leader guide for self-led visit to

Skidby Mill



EAST RIDING
OF YORKSHIRE COUNCIL

Why visit Skidby Mill

Skidby Mill is a unique place to bring pupils and educational groups. Its main focus is the mill, its history and how it operates to produce flour. There is access to several floors to see different parts of the workings.

The ground floor tells the stories of rural life in the East Riding particularly farming and rural industries such as brick making. Trails and hands-on activities enable children to engage with the exhibitions.

Outside is the nature garden area and the acreage. A wonderful place for children to explore nature and have fun on the play equipment.

Curriculum links

Curriculum links include history and science.

Booking and planning

All group visits must be booked in advance calling 01482 848405.

Group supervision

There is a minimum level of adult supervision required for group visits due to the nature of the building and to ensure the care of our museum collections. The ratio of accompanying adults to children as a minimum requirement is as follows:

- EYFS groups (aged up to 5) - 1 adult to 6 children.
- Y1 to Y6 pupils (aged 5 – 11) – 1 adult to 8 children.
- Y7 and above (age 11 and over) - appropriate to the activity.

Group leaders are advised to carry list of the children and adults with the group that day at all times during their visit or workshop.

Arrival

On entry, please head for the main entrance door to the mill. The Front of House staff are located at the mill reception desk, which is just inside the main entrance. If there is no Attendant at the desk, please ring the bell provided and somebody will be with you shortly. We will provide any information you need and log how many adults and children are with you on the day.

Emergency evacuation

- In the event of an emergency evacuation of the building, the group leader is responsible for a roll call of group members at the assembly point.
- Treasure House staff will escort visitors from the building to the assembly point outside.



Facilities and Access Aids

- In fine weather, the Miller's Garden – in the mill's grounds - is a good place to eat packed lunches. Otherwise the Education Room in the mill can be used, if booked in advance, which has tables and chairs, and racks to leave bags and coats. There is no extra charge for this.
- The café in the courtyard (which is not run as part of the museum) can also provide group catering; please contact them direct on 01482 847831
- Groups bringing their own packed lunches can leave them in the Education Room/Study Area at the start of their visit.
- There are toilet facilities (male, female and single unisex disabled) in both the main mill building and the café. There are baby-changing facilities in the disabled toilet in both buildings. Those inside the mill are on the ground floor, to the left as you enter the building. The toilets in the café can be reached from the courtyard without having to go into the café serving area.

Getting here and parking

Skidby Windmill is just outside the village of Skidby, as you enter the village from the roundabout on the A164 (Humber Bridge to Beverley). It is approximately 4 miles south of Beverley, and is signposted with brown signs.

Visitors arriving by car or minibus can park either in the mill car park (approximately 100 metres below the mill next to the restaurant car park) or in the dead-end Mill Lane opposite the mill entrance. If both are full, there are no parking restrictions on the public highway. There is no car parking charge. Please do not use the restaurant's adjacent private car park.

Please do not attempt to drive down the lane to the mill as visitors' vehicles are not allowed onto the courtyard area under any circumstances.

Coaches can drop off pupils on the road at the entrance to the mill – it is a very short walk up the private lane to the mill reception. The lay-by car park below the Mill House Restaurant is not large enough to accommodate a large coach, but it is possible to park on the road near the mill or in the wide junction of the dead-end road opposite the mill entrance. Please do not park in front of farm entrances on either side of the road.

Although there is a speed restriction on the road, it is busy at all times of the day, so when dropping pupils off, leaders are strongly advised to ask the coach driver to turn the coach round in the wide junction and pull up immediately in front of the restaurant building, so that pupils can get off the coach straight on to the pavement and do not have to cross the road (please note that there is no pavement on the other side of the mill entrance). Group leaders can then organise their party on the pavement before walking down the path into the mill courtyard. The same procedure should be used for collecting pupils after their visit.



Photography

Photography is permitted for educational purposes or to document a visit.

Risk assessment

- Visiting groups are responsible for carrying out their own risk assessment according to their school's/organisation's policy.
- It is recommended that a preparatory site visit is made.
- Skidby Windmill complies with all relevant health and safety regulations, including the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 and associated Regulations for visits taking place in the UK, and has a written health and safety policy and recorded risk assessments which are available for inspection, if required, on the following East Riding of Yorkshire Council website eastriding.gov.uk
- All aspects of the mill, garden and field have been risk-assessed and appropriate safeguards put in place. Group leaders are to make sure that all group leaders and members are briefed accordingly.
- Accidents are extremely rare, but accident and emergency procedures are maintained and records are available for inspection, if required.
- Please note that vehicles are excluded from the courtyard, and there are locked bollards in place to prevent entry.

Health and Safety

Skidby Windmill is an old and interesting working building. We want you and your party to enjoy your visit to the full, and to help this happen, would like to draw your attention to one or two important Health and Safety matters before you arrive!

Mind Your Head!

Having been built in 1821, when people were in general rather smaller than today, Skidby is full of beams and doorways which present no problems for younger children, but which adults need to be aware of! There is a low beam (6'3") in the main museum reception, while most of the doorways, and especially the one at the first-floor entrance to the mill tower, have a clearance of 6' or less.

Those that are particularly low have been padded and have warning signs next to them, but please remind any adults in your party to take care.

Watch Your Step!

Skidby was built and added to over a period of about 70 years, so there are many changes in level throughout the building. Most of these were ramped to allow men to wheel their sack barrows round. All the staircases have hand-rails, apart from those up to the stone floor in the mill tower. These are open-tread, and quite steep and narrow, and there is a hand-rope at the top to help going up and coming down.

You will be reminded by staff when you visit, but please tell your party before they come that for safety (a) there should be no more than two children or adults on this stairway at any one time and (b) nobody should start climbing the stairs until the person in front is half-way up – otherwise they risk being kicked in the face. The same applies going down. As on a ship, going



down is best done facing the stair treads because of the steep pitch of the stairs.

With younger children, the miller will supervise children at the head of the stairway, and we would strongly advise an adult member of your party to stand at the bottom. Some children who are unhappy with heights may find a steep stairway frightening.

As with any site, you may find that certain parts may have been cordoned off with safety tape or barriers. The cart shed in the courtyard, for example, contains large agricultural machinery bristling with spikes, blades, rollers and sharp edges, which, while immobilised, we would not wish to allow children access to. If you see such an area inside or outside of the building, please could you make sure that nobody strays beyond the tape or barrier.

Mind Your Fingers!

Around the museum, you will see signs featuring a waving black hand. This indicates that whatever it is next to can be safely handled. Everything else **SHOULD NOT BE TOUCHED**, please!! The equipment with moving parts, such as the sack barrow and mangle, have been immobilised, but please avoid letting children touch the tools on the carpenter's workbench (which are still fairly sharp) or trying to stroke the stuffed birds and animals (which are fragile).

There is a hand-quern in the base of the mill tower for grinding grain, which is perfectly safe for children to use provided care is taken over one or two points. There is a small risk that fingers can be pinched in the small gap between the stones when the quern is rotated very quickly; please supervise children to make sure they keep their fingers clear of this gap.

Also, they should not keep their hands on top of the quern for any length of time while it is rotating, especially if it is being turned fast – the quern is made of rough granite, and can rub the skin if not treated with respect. For very small children, museum staff will put the quern on the floor so that they can use it without having to reach up.

Dust

Dust is everywhere! Skidby is a working windmill, and an inevitable by-product of milling is flour-dust. Please be aware of this if you are bringing children or adults with asthma or bronchial problems. Even if the mill is not actually operating during your visit, the atmosphere in the stone room and meal floor may be sufficient to cause respiratory problems to people who are particularly sensitive to dust.

In General

As a general precaution, please ensure that you wash your hands after going round the mill, and certainly before eating food.

When we are milling, there will be an open sack of flour under the chute on the meal floor. Please do not put your hands either in the sack or the chute to feel the flour, or allow children to do so – the flour is for human consumption, and is not to be handled during any part of the milling process! We have a bag of flour kept specially for handling, and the miller or a member of staff will make this available for your group.

During warm summer weather, we would advise keeping clear of the black walls of the outside of the tower. They are covered with bitumen to protect the brick from damp penetration, and in hot weather this is likely to become slightly tacky and could stain clothing.

There are several apple and pear trees in the garden, which may look tempting but are, in fact



rather wormy cooking varieties which are great for making compost but are definitely not for eating raw! They were grown originally for their wood – the cogs in the mill are made of the very hard apple or pear wood, and every mill had trees on site for emergency use.

Public liability insurance

Skidby Mill has Public Liability Insurance. More information is available upon request.

Safeguarding

Curators and Museum Attendants have Criminal Records Bureau disclosures carried out.

Queries, requests, comments or complaints

Please contact the Museums team by calling (01482) 392780, or by email museums.th@eastriding.gov.uk

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**Thank you and enjoy your
visit to Skidby Mill!**

