

Ref: MS-01/3
May 2011



COMBE MILL SOCIETY

BLACKSMITHS' FORGE METHOD STATEMENT

CMS-MS-01/3

ms-01_v3.doc



1 Safety Procedure

- a) No person shall enter the area behind the barrier unless invited to do so by a blacksmith.
- b) Visitors shall be provided with suitable protective clothing.
- c) The blacksmith's instructions shall be followed at all times.
- d) Climbing on the barrier is prohibited.
- e) No person shall distract anyone working on the forge.
- f) Great care must be taken when working in the forge area, it being very hot.
- g) Hot steel must not be handled unless instructed by the blacksmith.
- h) Hot steel must not be left on the forge floor.
- i) Hot steel must not be left unattended, nor must paper or wood which might blow onto the fire.
- j) Do not leave the forge unattended when the fire is high.
- k) 'Hot Work' e.g. cutting, grinding, welding or hearth work on the forges or other processes involving heat, spark producing, or open flame shall only be carried on when combustible materials have been removed or protected and/or damped down.

2 Operating Procedure

- a) The hood extract fan must be turned on before the forge hearth is lit. Note (1)
- b) The electric air blower must be turned on and the air control slides adjusted to regulate the draught.
- c) The hood extract fan and air blower must be switched off before leaving the building.
- d) The fire must be raked out before departure.
- e) When 'hot work' processes have been completed, a 'fire watch' shall be put on duty for 30 minutes thereafter.

Note (1) – If the hood fan is out of use, the forge should be lit ahead of the arrival of the public in good time for the chimney to warm and the smoke to clear by natural ventilation.



3 Participation by the Public

- a) The member of the public shall be provided with protective clothing – leather apron, industrial gloves and eye protection before entering behind the barrier.
- b) Members of the public wearing open footwear shall not be permitted behind the barrier unless their feet are protected with leather gaiters.
- c) When working with members of the public the blacksmith shall always retain hold of the work piece and control handling of the work at all times.
- d) Members of the public under instruction shall not be allowed to place metal into or remove metal from the forge hearth unless they are over 18 years of age
- e) Members of the public shall only ever strike the metal with a hammer or add a twist into the hot metal by using the wooden handled tool provided or other approved methods.
- f) The blacksmith shall, if at all possible, always position himself/herself between the member of the public and the forge hearth.
- g) A Society member, other than the blacksmith, shall maintain a watch for the safety of members of the public working within the barrier area.
- h) Blacksmiths shall check the tightness of items clamped in a vice when instructing a member of the public.

4 PPE

(a) Blacksmiths

- (i) All blacksmiths ***should*** wear a leather apron while working in the forge.
- (ii) At the discretion of each blacksmith all or any of the following PPE may also be worn:
 - (1) eye protection
 - (2) appropriate gloves
 - (3) safety shoes or boots
 - (4) leather gaiters

Less experienced blacksmiths are advised to wear all of the above PPE.

b) Members of the public - See over

Combe Mill Society



Method Statement – Blacksmiths' Forge

(b) Members of the public

All members of the public (of all ages) operating as a blacksmith shall wear the following PPE:

- (1) Leather apron
- (2) eye protection
- (3) appropriate gloves

Leather gaiters shall be provided for members of the public wearing open footwear.

No Member of the public shall be allowed to operate as a blacksmith unless they agree to wear all of the above PPE.