

A Victorian classroom at Walmer

It is planned to set up a Victorian classroom at Walmer where classes will be able to study the castle and particularly its links with the Duke of Wellington. The Regional Education Officer, Cynthia Cooksey, would be glad to hear from any teachers who have items, expertise or ideas which they would like to contribute. Over to you!

Pendennis

In co-operation with the YHA, English Heritage are equipping one of the rooms in the hostel (which is within the castle walls) for study use. It will be available this summer to take a full class and will contain a slide projector and set of slides. Please check availability by 'phone with the custodian in advance.

Dover

The current Education Room will be out of commission after the end of March during the construction of the new Museum of the Queen's Regiment. New improved facilities will be available from Spring 1988.

Bishops Waltham/Calshot

Small Education Rooms will be available this summer. They will be simply equipped with tables and chairs to seat, preferably, a smallish class, or, at a pinch, a full class. Please check with the custodians for full details by 'phone.

Three New Teachers' Packs

APPULDURCOMBE HOUSE

This pack contains an illustrated teachers' handbook full of information about this once splendid 18th century country house and its park which was designed by Capability Brown. The handbook contains suggestions for activities which may be carried out in the classroom and on the site itself. The activities enclosed with the handbook are a discovery guide to the park, called 'On the track of Capability Brown', how to make bark rubbings and how to make a catalogue and case for a typical 18th century gentleman's collection.

Cost £2.90

YARMOUTH CASTLE

Yarmouth Castle was built to supplement the defences of the Isle of Wight after the French invasion of 1545. The teachers' handbook explains the structure of the castle (with plans, drawings and photographs) and sets it into its historical context. The handbook contains many ideas for further work, before and after the visit. Also included in the pack are a dramatic activity called 'Pirates', a card model of the castle to make and an activity which involves children examining the castle from the point of view of a modern builder, architect and estate agent.

Cost £2.30

ST CATHERINE'S ORATORY

St Catherine's Oratory was built in the early 14th century as a chapel cum lighthouse overlooking Blackgang Chine. Only the lighthouse survives today. The illustrated handbook for teachers outlines the history of lighthouses, from Roman times to the present day as well as activities for children including three simple experiments about lighthouse illumination. With the teachers' handbook comes an exciting trail for younger children called 'Shipwreck' which leads them from the coach park to the site, and a survey sheet to encourage observation and recording on the site itself.

Cost £1.60

English Heritage is grateful to Gateway Foodmarkets Ltd for their financial help in producing parts of these packs.

HERITAGE EDUCATION HANDBOOK

The Heritage Education Handbook will be welcomed by educationalists, property owners and administrators, and all members of the public interested in the country's heritage.

Parents especially, with children of school age, will be fascinated to see how this extra-ordinary national asset is now

being developed as an incomparable educational resource.

The Heritage Education Handbook is fully illustrated in colour and black and white.

The Theory, practice and development of Heritage Education are explained by leading experts writing from experience.

Sandford Award winning properties are featured and their educational services described.

Leading arts groups explain their educational activities — opera, dance and theatre.

Selected heritage groups explain their work.

It is published by the Heritage Education Trust with financial assistance from Lloyd's Bank.

Copies of the Heritage Education Handbook are available at £3.95 per copy post free from Hon. Director, Heritage Education Trust, St. Mary's College, Strawberry Hill, TW1 4SX.

Aerial View Posters of Castles and Later Fortifications

This exciting series of nine full colour photographic posters illustrates aspects of the development of forts and castles from the Roman period to the 19th century.

The sites are Portchester, Kenilworth, Dover, Tynemouth Deal, Tilbury and Brockhurst. Each new poster comes with teaching notes explaining what can be observed and understood in the particular photograph that we have selected. It is surprising how much easier it is to understand the evidence from a bird's eye view than when one is down amongst the buildings, and footing's on the ground. These posters will be an invaluable teaching aid.

The posters are available at a special discount to teachers. On site they will cost £1.50 per poster or £11.25 for the set. But by mail order direct from our store in Ruislip 87p each, (inc VAT) p&p 49p. Total £1.36 for a single poster £6.50 (inc VAT) p&p £1.40. Total £7.90 for the set.

English Heritage Education Service

Head of Education Service: Alison Heath
Regional Education Officer Southern Region: Cynthia Cooksey
Regional Education Officer Midlands Region: Mike Corbishley
Regional Education Officer Isle of Wight (seconded part-time to DOE as Education Officer for the Royal Palaces): Gail Durbin
Regional Education Officer Northern Region: Jim Lang

Education Service Administrator: Andrew Cridford
Temporary Teacher Assistant: Rosie Barker

REMNANTS will be published twice each academic year and will be sent free to schools through the LEAs. You should also be able to find one on display in your local Teacher's Centre. If you would like copies of REMNANTS sent personally to you, you may take out a year's subscription of £2.00. Contact:

English Heritage
Education Service (Remnants)
15/17 Great Marlborough Street
London W1V 1AF
Tel: 01-734 6010

REMNANTS, the Journal of The English Heritage Education Service, is edited by Alison Heath and Andrew Cridford.

Text copyright is of individual contributors. © English Heritage 1986

English Heritage
Education Service
15/17 Great Marlborough Street
London W1V 1AF
01-734 6010 Ext. 810

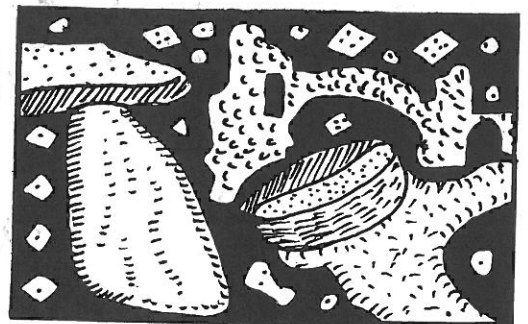
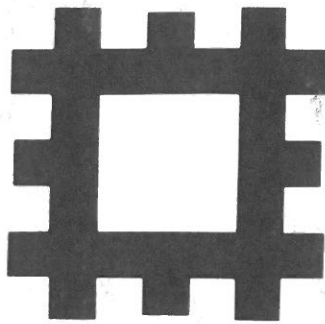
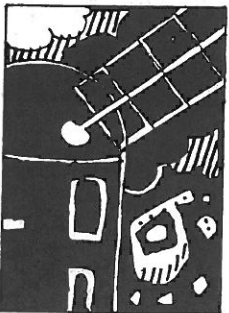
ISSN 0269-9656

Designed by Alan McPherson
Typesetting by Citytype, Leicester
Printed in England by Litholine, London



English Heritage

REMINANTS



Journal of the
English Heritage Education Service
No. 3 Summer 1987

Miss...please miss, why did people live underground?



The remains of the entrance to the forum of the Roman town of VIROCONIUM (now Wroxeter, Shropshire) displayed for the public.

This question, or ones like it, are common enough from people who peer at the scant remains of our past. Visitors to Caerwent in South Wales stand on the modern surface of the pavement and look down at the walls of Roman town houses. Even more mystifying to many are those deep holes so beloved by archaeologists working on town excavations — the Roman quay at Billingsgate in London was 10m below present street level. To look at the remains of Viking houses in York you have to travel down and down to the right level beneath the modern buildings. You are travelling in two dimensions as well — physically down and back through time.

To understand the level at which many remains are to be found we must appreciate that people in the past did not behave as we do today. For example, people did not assign the job of rubbish disposal to experts whose aim (as it is today) was to get it away from places of habitation. Rubbish was sometimes carted to convenient holes but often it was piled up in middens or put in specially-dug pits. Digging a rubbish pit puts soil onto the surface

and inevitably raises the ground level. This rise in level is usually difficult, or impossible, to see in towns but can more easily be seen in churchyards where centuries of inserting filled wooden boxes into created below-ground spaces have produced a new 'landscape'. Buildings, too, were not subject to Local Authority regulations and were often pulled down to form the foundation platforms for new structures.

There are other reasons, though, for remains being underground. The photo above of Wroxeter shows remains, at Roman ground level, deeply covered with soil. Part of this covering happened in the Roman period. While we may strip off old road surfaces to re-tarmac, the Romans usually added another, and another, layer of gravel and stone. With streets a metre thick or more it is easy to see how the level can actually come up over the lower courses of nearby buildings. At this point in Wroxeter the great build-up is mainly due to soil washing down from the hill to the east over buildings which had been dismantled and robbed away to be re-used elsewhere. Odd little nooks and crannies would also easily be filled with wind or water-borne silt or the rotted remains of vegetation or animals. On many archaeological excavations in the countryside, however, the remains are very close to the surface and can, consequently, be in danger from plough damage. Good examples of sites like these which had to be 'rescued' by excavations are the Anglo-Saxon village of Chalton in Hampshire and the iron age and the Roman site at Dalton Parlours in West Yorkshire.

Let's imagine that the remains you are taking your class to visit are not displayed in an archaeologist's trench like those above but just laid out on the ground. What would you, or they, expect to see? This is one pupil's answer to a question in an Alternative/Ordinary Level paper in Archaeology which asked candidates to speculate, using the evidence of an Ordnance Survey map, on features which they might see today on the ground.

I would expect to see a car park close to such a monument as Bindon Abbey and a sign saying that the priory had stood at that place. Apart from that I would not expect to see anything at the priory except a few remains of stone walls perhaps.