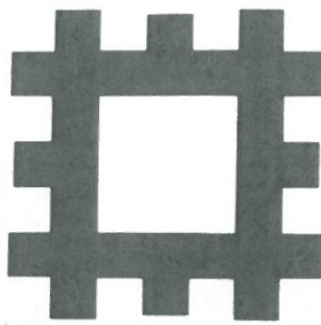


REMNANTS



Journal of the
English Heritage Education Service
No. 6 Autumn 1988

Digging deeper into history.... with trowel and computer

Archaeologists do not live in the past even if they study it. Modern technology has given them new tools. Once they shared the trowel with the bricklayer, now they use the laser and the computer of the secondary school. As computers become more commonplace in the classroom, so they are found more and more in areas of the curriculum which are traditionally the "humanities". Archaeology, one of the studies of man which bridges the gap between the phoney poles of arts and science, is an ideal vehicle for exploring the broadest uses of the computer in secondary schools.

This year English Heritage and MESU (Microelectronics Education Support Unit), an organisation promoting imaginative use of computers on behalf of the DES, are producing a project aimed at the lower secondary age range. The idea is this.

A gas pipeline is to be laid from the North Sea gas fields, across East Yorkshire to join the national grid. Three alternative routes have been proposed by "The North Sea Gas Company plc". Each route will have an impact on the landscape through which it will pass. Most of the effects will be temporary, but important archaeological sites along each route will be damaged or destroyed. Pupils have to choose between the routes to recover the maximum information within the budget provided. At the end of the simulation they must present a synthesis of the information, both as a written report and as an exhibition for members of the public.

The pack will contain teachers' notes, with a step-by-step guide to the simulation, hints on managing the project work in the classroom and detailed instructions for using the computer. An information booklet gives an up-to-date account of the prehistory



"Hands on" ... getting started

and early history of the region involved. Whilst the Pickering area provides the model, the whole country can use the material. Then there are the worksheets and resource cards, everything the pupils will need to take on the different roles in the simulation. All the site details are authentic: the computer program contains over 400 records taken from North Yorkshire County Council's database.

The project scores on so many fronts. It enhances children's uses of the computer without making them wear blinkers and being glued to the screen. It tells them a lot about prehistory and early history, as well as landscape archaeology. And it puts them through the processes of decision-making which professional

INSIDE

**Supersites II Competition Winners
Learning From The Past 1989 Course Details**

GEM
Group for Education in Museums

An Introduction

Membership of the Group for Education in Museums is open to all who are interested in the educational use of museums and related institutions. We have an international membership covering a wide range of knowledge and practical experience. There are members in schools and colleges, small and large museums and galleries, country houses and heritage sites, and urban and countryside interpretive centres.

The bond between GEM members is a belief that effective learning is enhanced by first hand experience of an object's technology, natural forms and local and world cultures found in the collections of these varied establishments and that an understanding of the learning potential of non-written sources should be encouraged.

Top
Young Norman warrior at the Tower of London

Bottom
A visitor: first hand experience for a museum visit

GEM

Group for Education in Museums

The Group for Education in Museums is the national association for all concerned with the educational use of museums and sites. The Group celebrates its fortieth anniversary in 1988 and to mark the occasion has published an illustrated leaflet outlining its work.

Members receive a quarterly *Newsletter* which acts as an information exchange. It includes reviews of recent publications, comment on curriculum change and news of events at sites. Recent themes of the annual *Journal of Education in Museums* have been multicultural education and the new exams. The 1988 edition will be on drama and role play in the interpretation of historic sites. Each August there is a residential course and a variety of informal meetings are held throughout the year round the country. Membership costs £7 for individuals and £14 for institutions.

Copies of the new information leaflet and further information may be obtained by contacting:

Gail Durbin
GEM
c/o English Heritage
Room 115
25 Savile Row
London W1X 2BT

The Historical Association

Teachers may be interested in joining the Historical Association. Apart from regional meetings and an annual education conference there are some very useful publications. The journal *Teaching History* is full of practical ideas, discussion of current issues, reviews and news that is of interest in primary as well as secondary schools. If you have never seen it or haven't read it for a long time, take another look. You may be surprised. Rather less visually interesting but with practical application is their series of booklets on the teaching of history. Recent volumes have covered GCSE, historical fiction and development education.

For a free information pack contact:

The Historical Association
59a Kennington Park Road
London SE11 4JH

EDUCATION ROOMS

We have equipped and opened several new rooms over the summer for schools to use on site visits:

Kenilworth Castle — two large workrooms and a small room with sink facilities for artwork are available for school parties. The rooms have 200 costumes for role-play work, a full costume of Queen Elizabeth I to investigate, three suits of 17th century armour (child-size) to try on and a range of models of parts of the castle during Elizabeth's time to handle.

Boscobel House — one of the farm buildings has been converted for schools to use when they visit this famous stopping place of Charles II (he hid in the oak tree here). The room has the usual audio visual facilities as well as three suits of child-size 17th century armour to try on.

New rooms are also open at **Furness Abbey, Cumbria** and **Rievaulx Abbey, North Yorks**. A room at **Pickering Castle** will be available early in the autumn term. A joint enterprise with the National Trust has resulted in a shelter for schools visiting **Housesteads Fort**.

If you want to make use of these or any of our other education rooms simply arrange it with our area office when prebooking your free visit. If you are planning a visit to **Dover Castle** please check whether our new Education Centre is open for use, by contacting the Monument Manager, Mr. Ken Scott. Tel. 0304 206291.

VIDEOS

Rescuing Our Past — our latest release is about rescue archaeology work. It is based on the Anglo-Saxon site at West Heslerton in North Yorkshire. The film has been made for primary and middle school children to use in the classroom. It is available on VHS or Betamax for free loan from our usual Ruislip outlet (see below).

Video loans — please note that due to our limited library stock we have had to place a limit of four on the number of copies you may borrow at any one time. You may keep tapes for one week after receipt, so we advise you to nominate a date during the term when you will need them.

ERRATUM

Our article, "Museums and the world of work" in issue no. 5 mistakenly referred to the Smithsonian Institute. This should, of course, have been the Smithsonian Institution.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

We have moved to new offices. Please send your subscription cheques or requests for further information about our Education Service to:

English Heritage Education Service
Keysign House
429 Oxford Street
London W1R 2HD
01-355-1303 Ext. 230

Please send any order for our publications or videos to:

English Heritage Store
PO Box 43, Ruislip, Middlesex HA4 0XW

English Heritage has over 350 monuments open to the public. Schools can make a free educational visit to any of our sites provided this is pre-booked through the relevant area office at least two weeks in advance. Teachers can also arrange a free exploratory visit beforehand to prepare ideas for the main visit later. We have a free information pack (containing a map of all our monuments) available along with information sheets for many of the individual sites. If you would like a copy of any of these or free visit-forms please write to our new address.

REMNANTS, the Journal of the English Heritage Education Service, is edited by Cynthia Cooksey and Ken Glen.

Text copyright is of individual contributors.

Designed by Alan McPherson

Typesetting by Citytype, Leicester

Printed in England by MHB Design & Print

ISSN 0269-9656

© English Heritage 1988

English # Heritage