Support your local monument!

Ancient Monuments can be found almost anywhere ... even in the school grounds. An exciting project involving the school and local community followed this discovery in Ramsey, Cambridgeshire.

Booths Hill is the site of a motte and bailey castle and a Victorian ice house. It lies mostly in the grounds of Ailwyn Community School in Ramsey, Cambridgeshire. The castle is a relic of a twelfth century fenland family feud. The ice house was the summer food store for the Victorian occupants of nearby Ramsey Abbey.

An almost forgotten corner of the school grounds has become the focus for pupils to learn across the curriculum, and has involved the community in a partnership which promises to rescue this interesting site.

Since the invention of the ‘fridge’, neglect has returned Booths Hill to nature. It is shaded by a canopy of mature trees with brambles and sycamore saplings growing at the fringes. A colony of bats inhabit the ice house. A mixture of rubbish, and leaf-mould has clogged the moat. Giant mosquitoes see off all but the most dedicated visitor.

The rediscovery of the significance of this scheduled monument by the school was one of several, fortunate coincidences. Another, was the growing commitment by teachers to build links across the curriculum, and involve pupils in planning, decision making and testing their own ideas.

Looking back, a chance encounter with Helen Paterson, the local Field Monument Warden from English Heritage started the process. She arrived at school during a summer holiday — and offered a guided tour. We had no idea that a resource as exciting as this sat literally on our doorstep.

Through Helen, we made contact with local conservation and environmental groups who had also recently become interested in the site.

And so it was that the Booths Hill Project was born through the marriage of community and educational aims. Our community partners, anxious to see the site rescued, and teachers who saw the potential for valuable and motivating learning.

The group of 13 year old pupils was the only one shared by all of the teachers involved, and even then, the same group did not exist across the curriculum. During their History lessons, pupils...
competition for children to design a play area inspired by the rich archaeological heritage nearby. For further information, and free copies of their colour leaflet, please contact:

Marion Blockley
Milton Keynes Archaeology Unit
16 Erica Road
Stacey Bushes
Milton Keynes
MK12 6PA
Tel 0908-312475

Joint Association of Classical Teachers

The Joint Association of Classical Teachers produces a number of publications for the general reader. These include MINIBUS, a magazine for 12—16 year olds interested in the Greeks and Romans; the first issue came out in the autumn of last year and has already sold over 12,000 copies.

OMNIBUS for the fifth and sixth forms: this is also extremely popular and is sold on a world-wide basis and lastly, a set of booklets entitled THEMES which explore the way the Classical world can be used in the National Curriculum for Primary Schools; subjects include, Mathematics from the Greeks, Science and Technology, the English Language etc.

Further details and order forms can be obtained from:
The JACT Office,
31-34 Gordon Square,
London WC1H 0PY.

Please address the envelope to the Editor of the particular publication in which you are interested.

‘Soundalive’ tours

At selected English Heritage sites, listed below, visitors can experience a ‘Soundalive’ guided tour, using a Sony walkman. Lasting approximately 35-45 minutes, each tape features informative commentary, highlighted with voices, music and appropriate dramatic effects, to help adults or children interpret the site.

As an extra facility for educational groups we can now offer a special 50% discount on the normal price of £1 to any member of a group making a pre-booked visit. Teachers can have a free trial beforehand to test their suitability as part of a preparatory visit.

New Education Centre

Our latest Education Centre is now open at Portchester Castle in Hampshire. The room, above the gatehouse, has been furnished and equipped with our usual range of audio-visual resources. If you wish to use the centre as part of a visit please request this on the form when booking your free visit. For further information and a free site leaflet please contact our Area Office in Tunbridge Wells, Tel 0892-548166.

Porchester Castle, Hampshire.

Please request the tours at the time of booking a free visit so that the site will have notice of the number of tapes needed, as supplies may be limited.

The ‘Soundalive’ tours are currently available at:

Audley End
Battle Abbey
Carisbrooke Castle
Castle Acre Priory
Chapter House, Westminster Abbey
Chiswick House
Corbridge Roman Site Deal Castle
Farnham Castle
Furness Abbey
Goodrich Castle
Huiels Abbey
Kemilworth Castle
Kenwood House
Lullingstone Roman Villa
Marble Hill House
Medieval Merchants House, Southampton
Much Wenlock Priory
Okehampton Castle
Pendennis Castle
Pevensey Castle
Rangers House
Richborough Castle
Rievaulx Abbey
Roche Abbey
Rochester Castle
Scarborough Castle
Wall Roman Site
Walmer Castle

The Education Service aims to provide teachers with as much help as possible. If you have any requests for further information please contact us at:

English Heritage
Education Service
Keysign House
429 Oxford Street
London W1R 2HD
071-973 3442/3

New postal sales address
Our warehouse at Ruislip has now closed. Please send any orders for our publications or videos, including requests for free loans, to our new outlet:

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PO Box 229
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REMANTS, the Journal of the English Heritage Education Service, is edited by Mike Corbinhead (Head of Education) and Ken Glen (Education Administrator).

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Typefset by Cityype, Leicester. Printed in England by Hythe Offset Ltd. ISSN 0269-9656 © English Heritage 1990