Finding out about Archaeology in your area

Archaeological sites are a valuable resource that you can use so locally that they may literally be right under your feet!

How do we find out about the archaeology and history of our area? How do we find out what archaeological projects are going on? Can we take school parties to see? Can we join in? Are there archaeological remains we can visit? Are there reconstructions of prehistoric settlements that we can visit?

There is now a nationwide resource in the form of Sites and Monuments Records maintained by archaeologists employed by county councils (or metropolitan district councils). These records (known as SMRs) consist of computerized lists of all archaeological finds and sites known in the county or metropolitan area. The find

Schoolchildren working on an archaeological dig at Starwick Roman villa — this is an English Heritage project which is part of a larger investigation of the Northamptonshire landscape’s development.

INSIDE

‘Learning From The Past’ Course details.
The Archaeological Detectives Game.
New Videos

In memoriam

Graveyards and cemeteries provide an educational resource of unparalleled richness. Ecology, archaeology, demography, art and social history may all be approached through the evidence which graveyards contain. In memoriam introduces and explores these different aspects, and the links between them, and suggests how the local graveyard may be used as an outdoor classroom.

Clues Challenge

One of the biggest problems for visitors to the ruins of our past is making sense of what is left. Clues Challenge, the second in ‘The Archaeological Detectives’ series sets out to provide a pre-visit exercise for children which asks them to look for evidence in surroundings which are similar to them.

Two young people, Alice and Daniel, are set the challenge of answering some basic questions about three different modern houses. In the first, which is fully furnished but empty of people, they are asked to work out who lives there (question: Do the toys indicate a girl or boy?). In the second, which is a bungalow empty of furniture, they have to work out what the rooms might have been used for (questions: What do the marks on the lino show? Furniture? Of what sort?). Finally they are taken to a modern estate which is being built. Their challenge is to work out what one building is going to be from only the foundations (questions: Where are the entrances? Will it be a bungalow or a two-storey house?)

Both these videos are available on free loan to teachers, or can be purchased for £3.95+£0.95+p+p from: English Heritage

PO Box 229
Northampton
NN6 9RY

Museums 2000

This is a unique international series of museum and gallery guides produced through the collaboration of the World Federation of Friends of Museums (WFFM), and the International Council of Museums (ICOM).

Combining the expertise of the curator and the interests of the museum visitor, Museums 2000 offers a series of books on museums from around the world with each book giving a personal visit to one museum. These guides provide a general tour of each museum, as well as focusing on specific works, and there is also the opportunity to look behind the scenes, showing the preparation involved for exhibitions and other activities of museums. Each volume is 21 x 24 cm, with 80 pages including 200 illustrations, one-third of which are in colour. Each volume is in English and another language.

The four volumes published in 1989 are
The Museum of Fine Arts at Ghent, The Conde Museum at Chantilly, The Museum at The Hague, and The New Louvre, Paris. Four other volumes to be published in 1990/91 will include museums in Spain, the USA, Mexico, Great Britain, or Switzerland.

For further details contact:
l’Association des Amis de Musees 2000,
Palais du Louvre,
75041 Paris,
Cedex 01, France.

Academic and Specialist Publications

English Heritage publish a number of books which may be of interest to teachers in addition to those listed in our own Resources catalogue. These range from archaeological reports and conservation titles to a major series of highly illustrated interpretative books, co-published with Batsford including ‘Avebury’, ‘Hadrions Wall’, ‘Church Archaeology’, ‘Wharram Percy’ and ‘Abbeys and Priories’. All the above are available by mail order. For a free catalogue contact:

English Heritage,
Room 241,
Fortress House,
23, Savile Row,
London W1X 1AB.

New Seconded Teacher

David Aldred has been seconded to English Heritage from Gloucestershire LEA to work on projects using our sites in the county, such as Hailes Abbey (see En Route earlier in this issue) and prehistoric sites in particular. He will be running a number of curriculum-related courses for teachers. For further details contact him at:

County Curriculum Centre,
Churchdown Lane,
Hucclecote,
Gloucester,
GL3 3QH
Tel 0452-623006

BUFVC

The British Universities Film and Video Council promotes the production, study and use of film and television for higher education and research. Teachers may also find its services useful. They organise seminars, screenings and workshops, operate an information service and publish a number of valuable books such as: Distributions; The Guide to Video and Film Sources for Education and Training. Viewfinder, their termly magazine, lists new catalogues and contains articles on subjects such as the new off-air recording licence scheme.

For further information and subscription details contact: BUFVC,
55 Greek St, London W1V 5LR.
Tel. 071-734 3687/8

Did you know...there are over 330 teaching environments which you can visit free of charge as a group provided that you prebook? Our free booklet Information for Teachers, contains a list of all our sites together with many practical ideas for getting the most out of school visits, and our new booking form. Our catalogue Resources is also still available on request. For copies of the above, further details of our teachers courses and any other information about our Education Service please contact:

English Heritage
Education Service
Keysign House
429 Oxford Street
London W1R 2HD
071-973 3442/3
Fax 071-973 3430

New postal sales address

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

English Heritage
PO Box 229
Northampton NN6 9RY

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