

locations are marked on Ordnance Survey maps so that details of a find and the findspot can be cross-referenced. The SMR is normally based in a county council's Planning Department or Museum Department and is looked after by a Sites and Monuments Records Officer and a County Archaeologist. Over the last ten years these local authorities, with help from English Heritage, have been building up these SMRs. They will never be complete since new discoveries are being made all the time. County Archaeologists will also know what monuments and sites can be visited, what interpretative and educational facilities are available, whether any digs are going on and who may be useful sources of further information.

What can we learn about our area?

The public may consult the SMR to learn more about the archaeology all around them. These were developed principally for planning and conservation purposes - to monitor and control development affecting archaeological sites - but they are also an educational resource. The landscape contains surviving traces of past societies: a scatter of prehistoric flints and sherds in a ploughed field, a cropmark of an iron age farm and its fields, earthworks of the houses and tenements of a deserted medieval village. Many hedges date back to the medieval period and possibly even earlier. In towns and cities, the ground beneath our feet may contain the accumulated remains, often metres deep, of the town's past going back one or two thousand years. Teachers can use the SMR to explore how the environment of the area has come to be as it is, what archaeological indicators survive in the landscape and how these remains might continue to be conserved.

What can we see?

It's very likely that there are archaeological sites in your area that can be visited. Whilst many lie under flat fields, some may be visible as earthworks. A visit to these may require some

BERKSHIRE SMR NO: 2601.00.000 PARISH: COOKHAM NGR: C SU8715086250
 NO OF: 0001 PERIOD: ROMAN MATERIAL: POTTERY CLASS: SHERDS
 DESCRIPTION: FROM MAHS SMR, ENTRY RATHER CONFUSED, LARGE QUANTITIES OF POTTERY FOUND AT THE LATE E MAJORS HOUSE, AT GIBRALTER MEADOW (FROM DARBY S.) POSSIBLY ASSOCIATED WITH A FLINT FLOOR BUT NOT ON SMR AS CONNECTION IS UNCERTAIN. TWO NGRS GIVEN, APPARENTLY REPRESENTING 2 FIND SPOTS

BERKSHIRE SMR NO: 2615.00.000 PARISH: COOKHAM NGR: G SU8800086000
 NO OF: 0001 PERIOD: 16TH CENT MATERIAL: SILVER CLASS: COIN: EDWARD VI
 DESCRIPTION: FIRST ISSUE GREAT MINT MARK DATES TO 1547-8, IN THE REIGN OF EDWARD VI, (1547-53) BUT COIN HAS HEAD + INSCRIPTION OF PREDECESSOR, HENRY VIII. OBERSE: "HENRIC 8 DG ANG FR Z HI REX" CRO WNEED HEAD OF HENRY VIII QUARTER RIGHT. ARMS OF ENGLAND. REVERSE: "CIVITAS EBORACI". MINT MARK "LIS". M USEUM NO M2

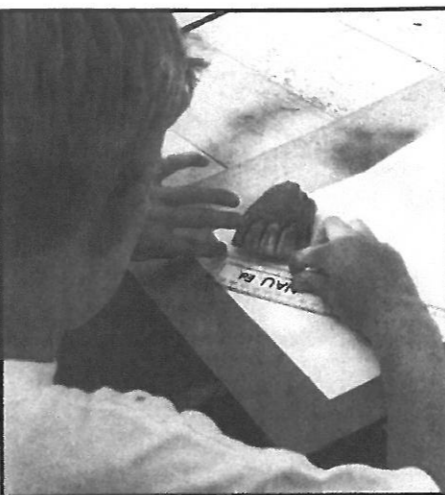
BERKSHIRE SMR NO: 2616.00.000 PARISH: COOKHAM NGR: G SU8870085100
 NO OF: LAST CENTURY PERIOD: PALEO MATERIAL: FLINT CLASS: IMPLEMENTS
 DESCRIPTION: SEVERAL ABRADED PALAEO-LITHIC IMPLEMENTS FOUND IN GRAVEL NEAR TAPLOW STATION IN THE LAST CENTURY

Part of a Sites and Monuments record for Berkshire.

preparation in interpreting the humps and bumps. There are more impressive sites - such as castles and abbeys - which may have interpretation boards, pamphlets and even custodians. Ask the County Archaeologist which sites can be visited, whether they are in public or private ownership, if there is an entrance charge, what opening restrictions there are, and whether permission must be sought in advance from the owners. Most importantly, the County Archaeologist should be able to give you some historical information on the sites and point you to further sources to follow up.

What's on?

There is likely to be a professional organization (an archaeological trust or unit) in your county or region who will be working on field projects. These will include field surveys, excavation and 'post-excavation' (analysing and writing up the results). You should be able to arrange visits to archaeological digs. Archaeologists have become far more conscious of on-site interpretation and welcoming visitors - if you are not allowed to visit, it may be because landowners are worried about responsibility for accidents on their property. It's always best to check with the County Archaeologist first. On many digs there are information boards and someone to guide large parties (with advance notice!). Often there will be a dig 'open day', and school parties may be encouraged to visit then. Units also hold open days when their premises and all their projects will be on show. Some are



Careful recording of finds.

becoming very sophisticated in their educational and presentational aspects. In York you can visit the ARC (Archaeological Resources Centre) and watch archaeologists at work on post-excavation as well as handle the finds. At Flag Fen, near Peterborough, you can see the excavations, visit an exhibition and go inside the iron age houses that they have reconstructed. Archaeological reconstructions of now-vanished buildings are increasing in popularity and in most parts of the country, you will not be far from a reconstructed iron age, Roman, Saxon or medieval house or settlement. The quality of the reconstructions varies - most archaeologists pay considerable attention to accuracy of detail but there is

a growing number of entrepreneurs, who are not archaeological experts, cashing in with bogus and misleading 'reconstructions'.

So you want to go digging?

With a growing awareness of landscape conservation, archaeologists, planners and conservationists have become more concerned at how many archaeological sites are being damaged, both by development and by well-intentioned but inexperienced groups. Archaeological excavation is now a sophisticated practice requiring a multitude of skills. It is best to take expert advice from professional archaeologists and to see about doing fieldwork under their guidance than to 'go it alone'. Some excavations, such as at Stanwick in Northamptonshire, can arrange for school classes of all ages to come and dig for the day; others may be able to take on older school children. Archaeologists in the field are often under pressure to meet deadlines imposed in their contracts and may not be able to spare the time to teach children to dig. Equally, some sites are too fragile or complex for untrained diggers.

Some teachers might be interested in working on a dig in their holidays. If you want to go further afield than your town or its region, there is the British



Making an accurate drawn record of the site.

Archaeological News (BAN), published by the Council for British Archaeology (CBA). This contains a list of archaeological excavations which require site workers, both experienced and inexperienced. BAN is taken by most large libraries; you can also subscribe by writing to the CBA, 112 Kennington Road, London, SE11 6RE. The cost is £9.00 p.a.

Archaeological education is growing fast in the profession. As well as the local societies and museums, there are archaeological units and trusts which now carry out most of the field research that is done in this country, normally in advance of development schemes. Many have a

strong presentational and educational element. The County Archaeologists can advise teachers in their area. However, they are busy people with a difficult job to do - try not to take up too much of their time in getting what you want. A few local authorities, such as Northamptonshire, Norwich, Worcester and Lincoln, may have an archaeological education officer or even a heritage interpretation officer. These posts are to some extent experimental and their success to date bodes well for English Heritage, the Countryside Commission and local authorities to support more posts like these around the country.

Mike Parker Pearson
 Formerly Inspector of Ancient Monuments for English Heritage in the Midlands, now lecturer in Archaeology at the University of Sheffield.

There are two seconded teachers currently working with schools at Archaeology Units on behalf of English Heritage. Please contact Stuart Bennett in Lincolnshire, or Rachel Shaw in Northamptonshire if you want further help. See list below for full address details.

Sites and Monuments Records Address List.

(CAO - County Archaeological Officer. SMRO - Sites and Monuments Records Officer.)

County Avon CAO Roberts, Mr Jan SMRO Vacant Address Planning Department Avon County Council P.O. Box 46, Middlegate, Whitefriars, Lewins Mead, Bristol BS99 7EU Fax 0272-273267 Tel 0272-226528	County Cheshire CAO Tindall, Mr Adrian SMRO Collens, Ms Jill Address Planning Department Cheshire County Council Commerce House Hunter Street Chester CH1 1SN Fax 0244-603802 Tel 0244-603160	County Devon CAO Timms, Mr Simon SMRO Griffith, Ms Frances Address Property Department Devon County Council County Hall Exeter EX2 4QQ Fax 0392-272301 Tel 0392-272266	County Gloucestershire CAO Wills, Ms Jan SMRO Isaac, Ms Jane Address Planning Department Gloucestershire County Council Shire Hall Gloucester GL1 2TN Fax 0452-425850 / 506056 Tel 0452-425683
County Bedfordshire CAO Coleman, Mr Stephen SMRO Simco, Ms Angela Address Planning Department Bedfordshire County Council County Hall Bedford MK42 9AP Fax 0234-228619 Tel 0234-63222 extn 2071	County Cleveland CAO Vyner, Mr Blaise SMRO SMR Officer Address Cleveland Archaeology PO Box 41 Southlands Centre Ormesby Road Middlesbrough T53 0YZ Fax 0642-326983 Tel 0642-327583 extn 223	County Dorset CAO Keen, Mr Laurence SMRO Pinder, Ms Claire Address Planning Department Dorset County Council County Hall Dorchester DT1 1XJ Fax 0305-66120 Tel 0305-251000 extn 4277	County Greater London CAO Thomas, Mr Roger SMRO Jones, Mr Hugh Address The London Division English Heritage Chesham House 30, Warwick Street London W1R 6AB Fax 071-973 3792 Tel 071-973 3732
County Berkshire CAO Chadwick, Mr Paul SMRO Hopkins, Mr Dave Address Dept of Highways and Planning Shire Hall Shinfield Park Reading RG2 9XG Fax 0734-310268 Tel 0734-875444 extn 4936	County Cornwall & Scilly CAO Johnson, Mr Nicolas SMRO Hartgroves, Mr Stephen Address Cornwall Committee for Archaeology Old County Hall Station Road Truro TR1 3EX Fax 0872-222490 Tel 0872-74282 extn 3602 3/4	County Durham CAO Pickin, Mr John SMRO Lakin, Ms Mary Address The Bowes Museum Barnard Castle County Durham 0833-690107 Tel	County Greater Manchester CAO Mayes, Mr Phil SMRO Redhead, Mr Norman Address G. Manchester Archaeology Unit University of Manchester Oxford Road Manchester M13 9PD Fax 061-275 2315 Tel 061-275 2315
County Buckinghamshire CAO Farley, Mr Mike SMRO Pike, Mr Andrew Address County Museum Technical Centre Tring Road Halton Aylesbury HP22 5PJ Tel 0296-696012	County Cumbria CAO Clarie, Mr Tom SMRO Pehrson, Ms Bette Address Planning Department Cumbria County Council County Offices Kendal LA9 4RQ Fax 0539-721000 Tel 0539-21000 extn 4378	County East Sussex CAO Woodcock, Dr Andrew SMRO Smith, Mr Paul Address Planning Department East Sussex County Council Southover House Southover Road Lewes BN7 1YA Fax 0273-479040 Tel 0273-481608	County Hampshire CAO Hughes, Mr Mike SMRO Oake, Mr Martin Address Planning Department Hampshire County Council The Castle Winchester SO23 8UE Fax 0962-846776 Tel 0962-846735 / 6/7
County Cambridgeshire CAO Taylor, Ms Alison SMRO Taylor, Ms Alison Address Dept of Lands and Buildings Cambridgeshire County Council Shire Hall Castle Hill Cambridge CB3 0AP Fax 0223-317341 Tel 0223-317111 extn 3312	County Derbyshire CAO The County Archaeology SMRO Barrett, Mr David Address Planning Dept Derbyshire County Council County Offices Matlock DE4 3AG Fax 0629-580121 Tel 0629-580000 extn 7125	County Essex CAO Buckley, Mr David SMRO Gilman, Mr Paul Address Planning Department Essex County Council Globe House New Street Chelmsford CM1 1LF Fax 0245-491189 Tel 0245-352232 extn 307	County Hereford and Worcs CAO Cooper, Mr Malcolm SMRO White, Ms Hilary Address Archaeology Section Here & Worcs County Council Cranham School Tetbury Drive Warndon Worcester WR4 9LS Fax 0905-763000 Tel 0905-58608

County Hertfordshire
CAO Daniells, Mr Mike
SMRO Paramore, Ms Karen
Address Planning Department
Hertfordshire County Council
County Hall
Hertford
SG13 8N
Fax 0992-555648
Tel 0992-555244

County Humberside
CAO Whitwell, Dr Ben
SMRO Dennison, Mr Ed
Address Property Services Dept
Humberside County Council
County Hall
Laigate
Beverley
HU17 9BA
Fax 0482-871892
Tel 0482-868770

County Isle of Wight
CAO Tomalin, Dr David
SMRO Motkin, Mr David
Address Archaeology Unit
Isle of Wight County Council
Clatterford School
61 Clatterford Road
Carisbrooke
Newport
PO30 1NZ
Tel 0983-529963

County Kent
CAO Williams, John
SMRO Howard, Ms Sally
Address County Planning Department
Kent County Council
Springfield
Maidstone
Kent
ME14 2LX
Fax 0622-687620
Tel 0622-671411

County Lancashire
CAO Iles, Mr Peter
SMRO Lancaster University
Address Archaeological Unit
University of Lancaster
Physics Building
Bailrigg
Lancaster
LA1 4YB
Fax 0524-844037
Tel 0524-65201 extn 4385

County Leicestershire
CAO Liddle, Mr Peter
SMRO Jarrett, Mr Robert
Address County Museum Service
Jewry Wall Museum
St Nicholas Circle
Leicester
LE1 7BY
Fax 0533-317820
Tel 0533-554100 extn 3023

County Lincolnshire
CAO The County Archaeology
SMRO Catney, Mr Steven
Address City and County Museum
Broadgate

County Lincoln
CAO LN2 1HQ
SMRO 0522-552222 extn 2803
Address 0522-530401

County Merseyside
CAO Cowell, Mr Ronald
SMRO Arch. Survey of Merseyside
Address Liverpool Museum
William Brown Street
Liverpool
L3 8EN
Fax 051-207 3759
Tel 051-207 0001 extn 260

County Norfolk
CAO Wade-Martins, Dr Peter
SMRO Rose, Mr Edwin
Address Norfolk Archaeological Unit
Union House
Gressenhall
Dereham
NR20 4DR
Fax 0362-860951
Tel 0362-860528

County North Yorkshire
CAO Griffiths, Mr Mike
SMRO Lee, Mr Graham
Address Planning Department
North Yorkshire County Council
Northallerton
DL7 8AQ
Fax 0609-780447
Tel 0609-780780 extn 2330

County Northamptonshire
CAO Hannan, Mr Alan
SMRO Foard, Mr Glenn
Address County Secretary's Department
Northamptonshire County Council
Bolton House
Wootton Hall Park
Mere Way
Northampton
NN4 9BE
Fax 0604-236223 (County Hall no.)
Tel 0604-700493

County Northumberland
CAO Hardie, Ms Caroline
SMRO Hardie, Ms Caroline
Address Planning Department
Northumberland County Council
County Hall
Morpeth
NE61 2EF
Fax 0670-510476
Tel 0670-514343 extn 3516

County Nottinghamshire
CAO Bishop, Mr Mike
SMRO Baddeley, Virginia
Address Planning & Transportation Dept
Nottingham County Council
Trent Bridge House
Fox Road
West Bridgford
Nottingham
NG2 6BJ
Fax 0602-455113
Tel 0602-823823 extn 4546

County Oxfordshire
CAO Steane, Mr John
SMRO Ray, Mr Keith
Address Department of Museum Services
County Museum
Fletcher's House
Woodstock
OX7 1SN
Fax 0993-813239
Tel 0993-811456

County Shropshire
CAO Watson, Mr Mike
SMRO Ward, Ms Penny
Address Prop. & Planning Services Dept
Shropshire County Council
Shire Hall
Abbey Foregate
Shrewsbury
0743-60315
Tel 0743-252563

County Somerset
CAO Croft, Mr Robert
SMRO Bradbury, Ms Jennifer
Address Planning Department
Somerset County Council
County Hall
Taunton
TA1 4DY
Fax 0823-255258
Tel 0823-333451 extn 5426

County South Yorkshire
CAO Little, Mr John
SMRO Francis, Ms Melanie
Address Archaeology Section
South Yorkshire Arch. Services
Libraries, Museums and Arts
Building
Ellin Street
Sheffield
S1 4PL
Tel 0742-734210

County Staffordshire
CAO Meeson, Mr Bob
SMRO Wardle, Mr Chris
Address Planning Department
Staffordshire County Council
Martin Street
Stafford
ST16 2LE
Fax 0785-223316
Tel 0785-223121 extn 7283

County Suffolk
CAO West, Dr Stanley
SMRO Plouviez, Ms Jude
Address Archaeological Unit
Suffolk County Council
Shire Hall
Bury St Edmunds
0284-763141 extn 2002
Tel 0284-763141 extn 2023

County Surrey
CAO Bird, Dr David
SMRO Poulton, Mr Rob
Address Planning Department
Surrey County Council
County Hall
Kingston on Thames
KT1 2DT
Fax 081-541 9005
Tel 081-541 9457

County Tyne & Wear
CAO Harbottle, Ms Barbara
SMRO Harbottle, Ms Barbara
Address Environment Design Section
Planning Department
Newcastle City Council
Civic Centre
Barras Bridge
Newcastle-upon-Tyne
091-281 6714

County Warwickshire
CAO MacLagan, Ms Helen
SMRO Hodgson, Mr John
Address County Museum
Warwickshire County Council
Market Hall
Warwick
CV34 4SA
Fax 0926-412746
Tel 0926-412734

County West Midlands
CAO Lang, Mr Neil
SMRO Lang, Mr Neil
Address West Midlands SMR
Joint Data Team
Radcliffe House
Blenheim Court
Solithull
West Midlands
B91 2AA
Fax 021-704-6554
Tel 021-704-0033 extn 241

County West Sussex
CAO Taylor, Mr Mark
SMRO Taylor, Mr Mark
Address Planning Department
West Sussex County Council
County Hall
Tower Street
Chichester
0243-777952
Tel 0243-777100

County West Yorkshire
CAO Hedges, Mr John
SMRO Yarwood, Mr Bob
Address West Yorkshire
Archaeology Service
14 St John's North
Wakefield
WF1 3QA
Tel 0924-290900

County Wiltshire
CAO Canham, Mr Roy
SMRO Cave-Penny, Ms Helena
Address Library and Museum Service
Wiltshire County Council
County Hall
Bythesea Road
Trowbridge
BA14 8BS
Fax 0225-751327
Tel 0225-753641 extn 2743

at the side of the grounds, the site of the abbey fishponds, where a stream made its way towards the monastery latrines.

Having bought the guide books to the abbey and the village church which is close by, we were both fired with enthusiasm. Funnily enough my husband had become thoroughly absorbed in the historical aspect of the project while I was becoming more and more interested in the nature study, so we reversed our roles when drawing up plans of work.

Two days before the class visit we called in at Hailes Abbey for a last reconnoitre. Imagine our dismay when we discovered that the long grass with its wonderful array of flowers had been cut close to the ground sooner than usual by a new contractor, as had the enclosed wetland. No longer could we distinguish the differences in vegetation and the loss of the meadow grass was a sore blow to our plans. However, all was not lost. The custodian, Mr. Neil Greenhalf, was most helpful and suggested that we should look at some adjacent scrubland which had been left to itself for fifteen years. This tangled wilderness proved to be even better for comparison with plants growing on the clipped lawns of the abbey ruins. Mr. Greenhalf also drew our attention to other aspects of wild life on the site. He showed us wild bees buzzing around apertures high in the museum building and pointed out bat droppings belonging to the tiny pipistrelle bats which inhabit the roof of the area where carvings from the abbey are displayed. Furthermore he showed us a blue tit's nest in the cleft of a nearby tree, complete with fledglings just ready to fly.

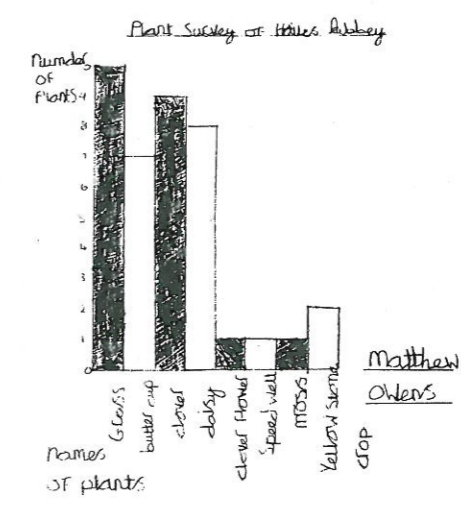
A tour of the ruins was the start of the visit, looking at the important features such as the abbey church, cloisters, chapter house, dormer and refectory and locating them on the plan of the abbey. The site of the shrine which once held the holy relic was pinpointed and a discussion about it ensued. Was it really the blood of Christ? The children pondered upon the question.

Then the class split into three groups each led by a teacher and accompanied by one of the parents. The first group were to compile a wild flower survey, the second to measure different lengths and widths and calculate areas within the abbey church and monastery buildings, whilst the third group was to sit in the cloisters and use their eyes and ears to contemplate their surroundings, the result being group poetry. This last group then made pencil sketches to illustrate the poems, and some of these drawings were very pleasing. The idea was to rotate the groups so that all the children would have the opportunity of being with each teacher for the different tasks. In the event, however, everyone was so engrossed in the work that there was only time for two change overs before lunch.

My own group found an amazing twenty one varieties of wild flowers in the shortened grass. After the initial survey their assignment was to work in pairs and throw a hoop ten times in different parts of the grounds, then count the number of species within the hoop and mark them



Drawing by Ryan Payne of 13th century boss showing Christ as a spiritual Samson rending the lion's jaw.



St. Richards C.E. First School, Evesham

En route Hailes Abbey

En Route is a series written by teachers who have investigated one of our less visited monuments. In this issue St. Richard's C.E. First School, Evesham visit Hailes Abbey in Gloucestershire.

Getting into the Hailes habit!

There is one historical visit during my far-off school days that stands out vividly in my memory. That was a trip to see the ruins of the once magnificent Cistercian abbey at Hailes, near Winchcombe, and to learn about the famous relic formerly



Josephine Jeremiah

enshrined there, a vial reputedly containing the blood of Christ.

As a child I remember the peacefulness of the site being very appealing, even though I was accompanied by a crowd of classmates. In later life I have often revisited the ruins, especially during the spring when the cowslips are in bloom.

When the opportunity arose to accompany my husband's class of juniors on a visit to Hailes Abbey I jumped at it.

We made a preliminary visit two weeks before the date of the excursion. The abbey ruins, bathed in the late afternoon sunlight, were as restful as ever. On the edges of the site there was a profusion of wild flowers amid the tall meadow grass. This led us to include a wild flower survey in our plans for the day's activities. We were further delighted to discover that there was a marked difference in vegetation in an enclosed patch of wetland

Group Poetry on Hailes abbey

Old ragged ruins
Walls very crooked and rough,
The cloisters are cold.

Cracked stones, ragged walls,
Battered arches, broken stones,
Crumbling night stairs.

When I go to Hailes Abbey I shall see at Hailes Abbey

Two bobbing blue tits,
Three long lawns,
Four squirrels scrambling,
Five dainty daisies,
Six beautiful butter cups,
Seven sheep shuffling,
Eight huge horse chestnut trees,
Nine bees buzzing,
Ten ragged ruins,
And one badger bolting.

That's what I shall see
When I go to Hailes Abbey.

David Venn

Josephine Jeremiah

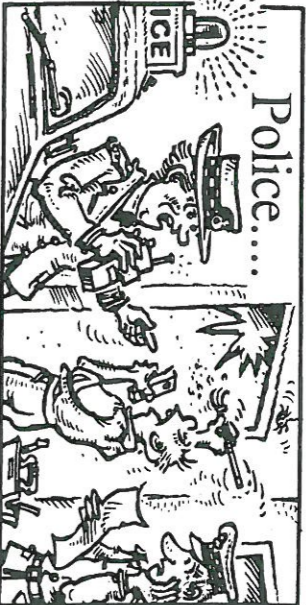
My husband and I are always keen to use children's fiction in our class projects. We have used *The Gauntlet* by Ronald Welch (Oxford University Press 1951) in which Chapter XI concerns a visit to a medieval Cistercian monastery; another children's story which briefly describes an actual visit to Hailes is *Cotswold Holiday* by Winifred Finlay (George G. Harrap & Co. 1954). The relevant pages are 97-101, within Chapter VI which is entitled *The Monks of Hayles*; Mr. Neil Greenhalf, the custodian of Hailes Abbey, kindly lent us his copy of the children's tale *Pan's Wood* by Geoffrey Hoyland (Faber & Faber 1947) which also features the abbey.

Hailes Abbey, Gloucestershire, is 2m NE of Winchcombe off the A46. OS map 150; ref SP 050300. This cistercian abbey, founded in 1246 has remains of the monastic buildings and cloister. The site museum has examples of carved stone and decorated tiles.
Tel: 0272-734472 to book a free group visit.

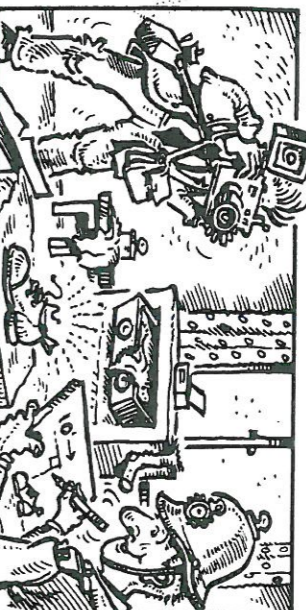
Play

The Archaeological Detectives Game

An archaeologist's job is to hunt for clues to help find out what happened in the past. Archaeologists work a bit like police detectives investigating a crime.



investigate a crime



taking notes and photographs, making sketches



asking questions



collecting clues (fingerprints etc)



checking against their records.....



and hope to catch the criminal and put forward their evidence in court.



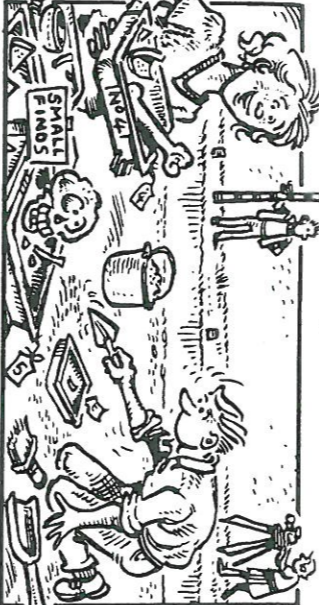
investigate a site



taking notes and photographs



making plans



collecting clues (broken pottery, animal bones etc)



checking against their records..... and will present their evidence in a report or exhibition.



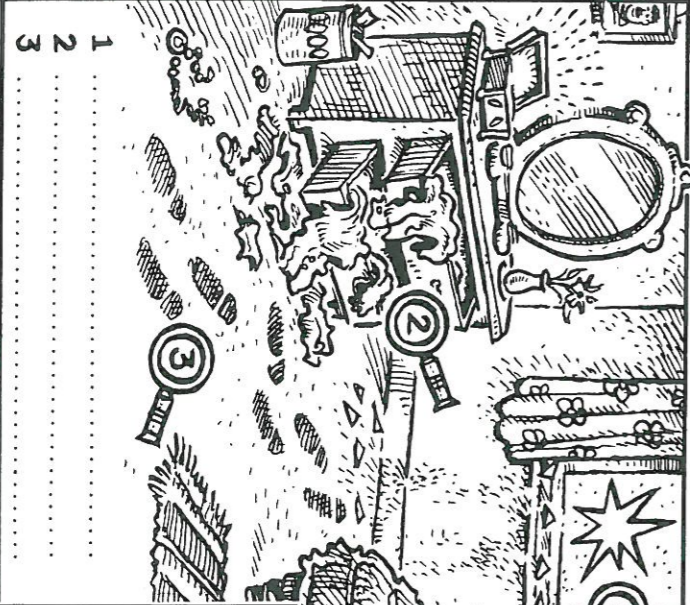
Clues are shown by

Be a police detective!

In the boxes below write down what you think happened. What was the crime?

Be an archaeological detective!

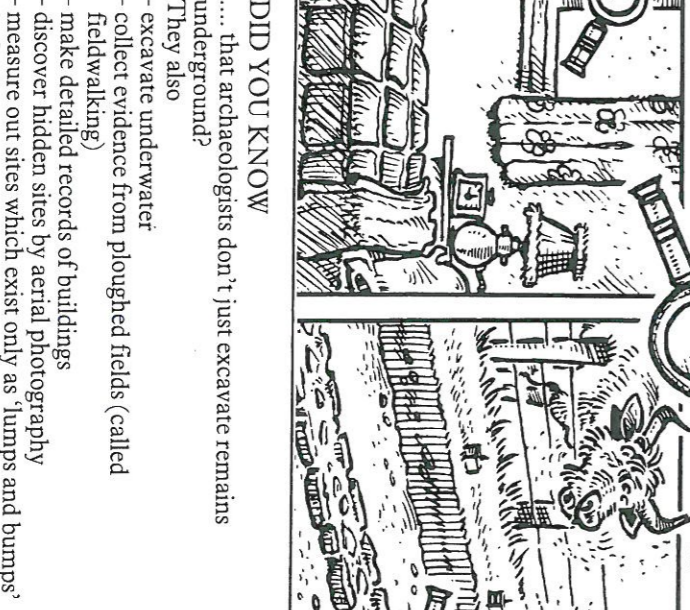
In the boxes below write down what you think happened. What was this building like in the past?



- 1
- 2
- 3

DID YOU KNOW

- ... that archaeologists don't just excavate remains underground?
- They also
 - excavate underwater
 - collect evidence from ploughed fields (called fieldwalking)
 - make detailed records of buildings
 - discover hidden sites by aerial photography
 - measure out sites which exist only as 'lumps and bumps' in fields
 - ...and much much more!



- 1
- 2
- 3

To play **The Archaeological Detectives Game** you need: to pretend you are a great detective... you also need something to write with.