Using English in the Historic Environment

This is the third in our series of articles on core subjects in the National Curriculum. It examines some of the many ways of using the historic environment as a resource for English. If you have colleagues who teach English and may not see this article why not photocopy it or loan it to them.

The historic environment is not limited to islands of the past floating in the everyday world. Glance out of any window and you will almost certainly be looking at evidence of the past. While those easily-identifiable sites, for instance, an abbey, a castle, a Roman site or prehistoric landscape, are an important element, they represent only a small part of the total. For children, everywhere belongs to the past as much as it does to their present. They may already be as familiar with a fifteenth century church as they are with a mid twentieth century shop or a Victorian housing estate. While all this potential waits to be explored, the

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Artists’ Interpretations of the Past Young Historian Award Winners
Educational Visit Bookings

From 1 April 1993 there will be new Regional office addresses for booking free educational visits to English Heritage Historic Properties in the Midlands, East Anglia, and the South East. Our existing offices in Wolverhampton, Cambridge and Tunbridge Wells will be closing, and applications for any regional enquiry after that date should be sent to the new addresses below. As there have been a number of changes of address recently here is a complete up-to-date list.

South West
English Heritage South West Regional Office
7/8 King Street
Bristol BS1 4EQ
Tel. 0272-750700
For visits to sites in: Avon, Berkshire, Cornwall, Devon, Dorset, Gloucestershire, Isles of Scilly, Oxfordshire, Somerset and Wiltshire.

South East
English Heritage South East Regional Office
1 High Street
Tonbridge
Kent TN9 1SG
Tel. 0732-778000
For visits to sites in: Hampshire (except Hurst Castle), Kent (except Dover, Deal and Walmer), Surrey, East and West Sussex.

Isle of Wight (including Hurst Castle)
Osborne House State Apartments
East Cowes
Isle of Wight
PO32 6JY
Tel. 0983-200022

Dover, Deal and Walmer Castles, Kent
English Heritage
Dover Castle
Kent CT16 1HH
Tel. 0304-201628

London
English Heritage Visitor Services Manager
The Iveagh Bequest, Kenwood
Hampstead Lane
London NW3 7JR
Tel. 081-348 1286/7
For visits to sites in: Greater London.

Midlands
English Heritage Midlands Regional Office
Hazlewood House
33 Marefair
Northampton NN1 1SR
Tel. 0604-730320

North
English Heritage North Regional Office
Bessie Surtees House
41-44 Sandhill
Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 3JF
Tel. 091-261 1585
For visits to sites in: Cheshire, Cleveland, Cumbria, Durham, Greater Manchester, Humber, Lancashire, Merseyside, Northumberland, Tyne and Wear, Yorkshire North, South and West.

For a complete list of all English Heritage Historic Properties and further details of our Free Educational Visits Scheme write to us for your free copy of the Information for Teachers booklet.

National Archaeology Day
National Archaeology Day 1993, organized by the Young Archaeologists Club, will be from Saturday 28 to Sunday 29 August, providing a choice of opening days or a whole weekend of activities throughout Great Britain. The aim is for young people and their families to visit a site of archaeological or historic interest to see archaeology in action and take part in activities on site. Venues may include excavations, historic monuments, museums and resource centres.

For further details write to: Geoffrey Cole, The Archaeology Centre, 4/10 London Road, Bagshot, Surrey, GU19 8HN.

Visits to Osborne House
There are new guidelines available for schools wishing to visit Osborne House on the Isle of Wight. If you are planning a visit please write for your copy of the guidelines:
The Head Custodian
Osborne House
East Cowes
Isle of Wight
PO32 6JY
Tel. 0983-200022

We are pleased to announce that this issue of Remnants has been printed on recycled paper and that English Heritage Education Service publications from now on will be published on recycled paper.

Schools can make a free educational visit to any English Heritage Historic Property provided this is pre-booked through the relevant regional office at least two weeks in advance. Teachers can also arrange a free exploratory visit beforehand to prepare ideas for the main visit later. The Education Service aims to provide teachers with as much help as possible to use the resource of the historic environment. If you have any requests for further information please contact us at:

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