

Adopt a Monument Scheme:

Previous examples:

- English Heritage (often school-based and directed at larger recognised sites)
e.g. Stonehenge, Chysauster, Clifford's Tower, Kenilworth Castle
- Scottish Archaeology
(formal scheme involving extensive joint work, funding applications and training to create heritage support groups.)
e.g. Digging the Scene, Edinburgh; Minding Merkinch Archaeology Project



The Merton context:

- Wide range of historic structures
- Some site cared for / monitored by LBM and English Heritage
- Sites where responsibility is unclear
- Such sites are an integral part of Merton's heritage.
They should be preserved, recorded and interpreted for posterity.

Value of a Merton scheme:

- Potential for greater public access to local heritage
- Linking monuments and communities in a mutually beneficial way

Public benefits:

- Use of existing skills and potential for professional development
- Opportunities for socialising, confidence building, lifelong learning
- Direct access to historical material / supports National curriculum
- Heritage awareness and involvement
- Improvements to local environment / pride of place



Monument benefits:

- Site better recorded and understood
- Regular monitoring v vandalism / environmental change
- Public value surviving heritage
- Potential for ongoing management
- Increased public access / awareness
- Creation of dedicated support team

Pilot scheme (Autumn 2016)

- Monument adopted by local school, community group, residents
- Basic (regular) monitoring of site – reporting system re. damage / change
- Regular site visits
- Site research – via Local Studies Centre / local museums and heritage contacts
- Adopting group helps to raise awareness of site (signage, leaflets, web material, displays and / or social media)



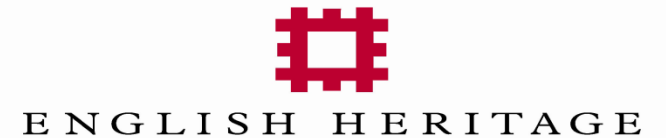
Issues to consider:

- Appropriate support network
- Supervision of volunteers
- Funding / capacity
- Sustainability
- Legal requirements
- Access v safety and security
- Assessment of monuments / potential adopting groups



Support sources:

- LBM – Heritage, Environment & Regeneration, Planning, Communications, Legal
- Historic England
- Regional Archaeological Unit
- Local museums and societies
- Diocesan authorities
- Special interest groups
- Landowners / property owners
- Local schools and colleges
- Local media



Carved in Stone Project Update



Project Update:

- New equipment – reader printers, hand scanner, audio-visual equipment
- Project Development Officer
- 28 volunteers (aged 15 – 70+) have worked on the project
- Volunteers training: induction, local history, use of reader-printer, newspaper digitisation and review, research guidance (LSC / Nat. Archives,) oral history training, filming, interview, transcription, editing
- Participation in a wide range of outreach activities across the borough
- Clear branding and good media presence – Guardian, SW Londoner, stakeholder sites, My Merton, websites, J C Deceaux panels
- 350 combatant profiles to date, with more under way





- 3 War Story Days held – attended by 800 people
- 18 interviews recorded, transcribed and films edited and images / memorabilia recorded
- Digitisation and review of nearly 100 months worth of 5 WW1 newspapers

Contact with collection holders who will share resources with project including:

- Museum of Wimbledon
- John Innes Society
- Rutlish School
- KCS
- St.Mary's, Merton; St. Mary's, Wimbledon
- Chris Burge
- U3A
- Researchers re. Mitcham defences

- Cataloguing of Museum of Wimbledon WW1 collection

- Conservation of 44 WW1 items to a high standard allowing display and handling



- Production of 3 Merton at War maps and a CIS Heritage Trail
- Guided walk and Remembrance weekend activities staged with good attendance / feedback
- E-Newsletter
- Townsweb Archiving Ltd appointed as web contractor
- preparing Pastview system and web design.
- Contact with 7 Merton schools for feedback re. resources
- Recognition of the value of the project – Volunteer awards, Merton Excellence Awards

Project Schedule: CIS Website

February:

- Input combatant data to spreadsheet; Write up “Additional information” and “Home Front”;
- Review of written work; Selection of images and permissions sought;
- Skeleton entries for 100 – 150 combatants
- TWA upload of basic data

March:

- Pastview training
- Complete combatant /Home Front info - input to Pastview and upload images
- Proofing and checks for upload errors

April:

- User Testing – Project board, volunteers, stakeholders, random testing
- Completion of inputting and image upload prior to launch
- TWA amendments following feedback

May:

- Promotion
- CIS Launch and demos to public



Heritage Discovery Day / CIS Web Launch: Saturday 28 May 2016

10.30 – 12.00: Formal web launch for volunteers, heritage stakeholders & VIPS
(includes buffet)

12.30 – 4.30: Heritage Discovery Day (Public event)

Featuring: displays, film screenings, talks, children's activities, interactives for all ages, CIS web demos and heritage marketplace.

Who can help on 27 or 28 May?

Roles:

- Content ideas / Promotion
- Help with set-up
- Meet and greet
- Help with refreshments
- Invigilation
- Activities / Meet the team (tbc)
- Web tasters
- Photos / Evaluation

