

SITES OF MEANING

Marker Stones for the Millennium

EDUCATIONAL PACK – STUDENTS

General Information

Sites of Meaning was a millennium project of Middleton and Smerrill in the Derbyshire Peak. The project marked the seventeen entrances to its parish with inscribed boundary stones. Much of the activity had an educational focus and included two projects with Youlgrave Primary School - the *Sculpture Residency* and *Other Stones - Other Meanings* where the school worked with artists, writers, archaeologists and educationalists. A later project, *InscribeNOW*, involved secondary schools and local colleges in developing publicity material for *Sites of Meaning*. This pack is designed for teachers, lecturers or students who may be visiting the area and is based on our experience gained in those projects.

Visiting Middleton

Middleton is a small village but large parish. However, many of the *Sites of Meaning* marker stones, plus other sites of interest are easily visited from the centre of the village or Youlgrave. More distant stones and places of interest such as Arbor Low need transport.

Facilities are limited – Middleton has no shops or pubs – but a useful shed can be found at the end of the children's playground in the main square and there are public toilets. Parking is not normally a problem except at busy weekends. The Youlgrave Website provides lists of local services and places to stay.

Well Dressing week (Spring Bank Holiday) is an excellent time to visit Middleton when the village throngs with visitors and there is the well dressing to see. But if you come the week before you'll be able to see the well dressing boards being prepared by a team of villagers.

General Information

www.sitesofmeaning.org.uk - over one hundred pages of text, images, maps and information.

www.youlgrave.com - information about local services

www.peakdistrict.gov.uk - website of the Peak District National Park Authority

Map OS Explorer OL2 - The Peak District – White Peak Area

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STUDENT PROJECT

There has never been a better time to be an artist. More artists today are making a living out of their practice, there is a vast public interest in the arts, and the creative industries are now recognised as an essential part of the economy. Training to be an artist is popular in universities and well established professional networks inform and support artists, particularly in the early stages of their careers. But what does it mean to be an artist today? What sort of work would you be doing? How would you interact with your public? What sort of products would you be making?

Sites of Meaning is typical of projects in which artists are engaged to share their skills in and with members of a community. This package uses our 2002 Sculpture Residency as a project for students, not only to develop a text-based sculpture, but explore how artists engage with local communities.

The Project

In this project you are to design a sculptural boundary marker stone for *Sites of Meaning*. You may use any of the texts suggested by members of the parish and design a stone for any of the locations on the parish boundary. While undertaking this project you should consider what it might mean to be an artist working in the landscape and/or with a local community. We suggest you explore the *Sites of Meaning* website, read the recommended downloads and attached appendices before considering:

- how you will choose and interpret a piece of text and for which site;
- what form your sculpture might take and, importantly, how will you handle the text;
- the stone you will recommend (Middleton is surrounded by sandstone and limestone).

Furthermore you need to:

- identify artists' groups and other artists' agencies in your area;
- explore AN magazine and the Axis website.

Outcomes

You will need to produce the following:

- preparatory sketches and deliberations on paper or in sketchbooks;
- final working drawings which fully explain your interpretation, ideas and design;
- a journal which documents your activity (vital for writing subsequent project evaluations);
- the fee you would charge for your time, cost of materials and manufacture and installation;
- a short written reflection on what a career in fine art might mean.

RESOURCES

Sites of Meaning

1. The 18 *Sites of Meaning* stones, Middleton by Youlgrave, Derbyshire.
2. *Sites of Meaning* website, www.sitesofmeaning.org.uk. Consider, particularly, the Sheep Dip (4), Smerrill (8), Longdale (9), Bolderstone (10), Friden Bends (11) which were conceived, designed and, with the exception of the Milestone at Friden Bends, carved by professional artists.
3. Sites of Meaning downloads, particularly:
 - Working Drawings – used to design and communicate ideas to masons;
 - The Parish Map showing the locations of the different sites.
 - Inscriptions – used on the stones;
 - Reflections – comments by proposers, artists and team members on each stone;
 - Precedents – examples of stone on text in Derbyshire.
4. Appendices to this document: Residency Advert, letter requesting a proposal, and contract.

Other

1. AN Magazine – published by the artists information company, available from galleries / college libraries. Sneak a glimpse of the magazine on www.a-n.co.uk though you need to be a paid up member to take advantage of the networking pages.
2. Arts in the Peak (www.artsinthepeak.co.uk) and DARTS (www.derbyshireopenarts.co.uk) are typical regional artist led support networks for artists working in Derbyshire and the Peak District.
3. Axis Database. Look up stone carvers and landscape artists. What work to they do?
4. The National Learning Network <http://www.nln.ac.uk/materials/> has several case studies of artists who work in and with communities.

Appendix 1: Advert that appeared in AN Magazine

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RESIDENCY

Sites of Meaning is a millennium project of Middleton and Smerrill in the Derbyshire Peak District which aims to mark its parish boundary with stones and sculptures inscribed with text suggested by its residents.

We are looking for an artist with an interest in text, landscape and experience in handling stone for a May - June 2002 residency.

Initially we are looking for three artists to visit the village, explore its landscape, meet its people and develop proposals, one of which will be developed into a final sculpture. There will be a fee of £300 for each artist at this stage.

A fee of £3600 will be paid for the final selected sculpture with an additional £1200 to cover materials, transportation, maintenance and insurance. A community and educational programme forms an integrated element of the residency.

Interested artists should send a concise statement, a maximum of ten slides, and a named referee to: Sites of Meaning, April Cottage, Middleton by Youlgrave, Derbyshire DE45 1LS, by 14 December 2001.

This residency is supported by the Derbyshire Dales District Council and the Regional Arts Lottery Programme through East Midlands Arts.



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Appendix 2: Letter requesting proposal

Dear

Further to our telephone conversation today, I'm pleased to inform you that you are one of the short listed artists for the Sites of Meaning residency

We would like you to visit the village and submit detailed proposals for the residency for which we will pay you a fee of £300. Briefs are and information attached.

The timing of this residency is crucial. We will expect the selected artist to work in the village during the last week of May and the first week of June (27-05-02 to 07-06-02) for ten days, preferably including the weekend and/or Bank Holiday Monday. This is to coincide with the village well dressing when we anticipate maximum visitors. Thereafter the timetable can be more relaxed though we will need to co-ordinate days with schools and other group visits during June. We would expect the stone to be completed by the end of July 2002.

Our offer, to visit the village and submit proposals for the residency, is conditional on your willingness and availability to complete the full residency, if selected, during these dates.

Please confirm this by letter as soon as possible.

Will you contact me as soon as possible to arrange a visit to Middleton early in January, and to answer any questions you may have.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

Appendix 3: Final contract for the commission

Contract	This Agreement is made on 11 May 2002 between Sites of Meaning 'The Commissioner' XXXXXXXXXX 'The Artist' .
Commission and Residency	<p>1.1 The Artist will complete the 'Sculpture' as described in the attached proposal.</p> <p>1.2 The Artist will run the 'Residency', including workshops, in accordance with the attached schedule.</p> <p>1.3 The ordering of materials, adherence to budgets, completion of the work to agreed deadlines and the return of the venue to the pre-residency condition is the responsibility of the Artist.</p> <p>1.4 The delivery of materials to the Residency venue, and the Sculpture to its site, is the responsibility of the Commissioner.</p>
Monitoring and Evaluation	<p>2.1 The Artist will produce a short written report for evaluation purposes and will assist the Commissioner where necessary in monitoring the evaluation of the Residency.</p>
Fees, Materials and Insurance	<p>3.1 The Commissioner will pay the Artist the sum of £3600 inclusive of VAT, on the presentation of an invoice, in the following instalments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">i £1200 at the start of the Residency on 20 May 2002.ii £1200 on 27 June 2002.iii £1200 on completion of the Sculpture and Residency. <p>3.2 The Commissioner will pay for the stone and transportation on presentation of invoices, to a total value of £800.</p> <p>3.3 The Commissioner will provide appropriate work space and shelter for the Artist in the Middleton playground for the duration of the residency.</p> <p>3.4 The Artist will provide third party liability insurance for the duration of the Residency.</p>
Ownership, Copyright and Reproduction	<p>4.1 The Commissioner will assume ownership of the Sculpture on completion and will accept responsibility for future insurance and maintenance of the Sculpture.</p> <p>4.2 The Artist will retain copyright to the Sculpture.</p> <p>4.3 The Artist grants the Commissioner permission to take and publish photographs of the Sculpture or Residency without payment or consultation.</p>

**Originality
Acceptance and
Acknowledgement**

- 5.1 The Artist warrants the Sculpture will be original.
- 5.2 The Artist will use her aesthetic skill and judgement to create the Sculpture and the Commissioner agrees to accept the Sculpture in accordance with the terms of this Agreement, unless the Commissioner can show that the Sculpture was not executed in accordance with the Proposal agreed in clause 1.1 of this Agreement.
- 5.3 The Commissioner will at all times acknowledge the Artist as the creator of the work.

**Termination of the
Agreement**

- 6.1 **By the Commissioner** - at any time the Commissioner may terminate this agreement upon giving written notice of the reason to the Artist, who will be entitled to receive or retain payment for all the work done in pursuance of this agreement up to the date of receiving such a notice, and any further sums which may be reasonable in such circumstances.
- 6.2 **By the Artist** - if the Artist should die before completing the work, her successors in title will be entitled to receive or retain payment for the work done in pursuance of this agreement, and any further sums which may be reasonable in such circumstances.
- 6.3 **By the Artist** - if in the event of the Artist's illness, damage by fire, flood, or any place where the work may be housed, or any other cause outside the control of the Artist, the work cannot be completed by 31 July 2002 or other date agreed between the parties, the Artist will be entitled to receive or retain payment for the work done in pursuance of this agreement, up to the date of the commencement of the illness or other cause, and any further sums which may be reasonable in such circumstances.

**Duration, Proper
Law and Arbitration**

- 7.1 This Agreement will be binding upon the parties, their assigns and all other successors in title.
- 7.2 This Agreement is governed by the laws of England and Wales and may only be amended by further written agreement signed by all the parties.
- 7.3 Any dispute under or arising from this agreement will be referred to **East Midlands Arts** for Arbitration.

Artist

date:

Commissioner

date: