

OLD SARUM

A GUIDE FOR TEACHERS USING THE FREE EDUCATION RESOURCES

Originally an Iron Age hillfort and then the site of a medieval castle and cathedral, Old Sarum has been influenced by 4,100 years of history. The site you see today has strong curriculum links with prehistory, the Romans, the Saxons, the Vikings, the Normans, the Stuarts and the Victorians.

This document provides you with a range of free resources to help you with teaching and learning at Old Sarum. Each section will give you an overview of the resources available and advice on how best to use them during your visit.



If you would like to use any of these free resources, simply make a request when you book your visit. If you are interested in any of the activity sheets referred to in this document, please download them from the Old Sarum 'Schools' webpage.

To book your Free Education Visit, go to:

www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/old-sarum/schools/

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OLD SARUM THROUGH TIME

HANDS-ON TIMELINE

QUICK GLANCE

Learning Objective/s: To understand how the landscape and people of Old Sarum have changed over time. To develop a chronological understanding of Old Sarum's history.

Recommended for: KS2-4

Resource Summary: A free, bookable interactive timeline resource which splits Old Sarum's rich history into five periods. For each time period, there is a reconstruction drawing and a handling collection ready for you to use on site. The resources are already organised for you into the following time periods:

- Neolithic 400BC-2000BC
- Iron Age 800BC-43AD
- Romans 43AD-410AD
- Vikings 800-1066
- Medieval 1086-1260

EH Education suggests: Ask your students to work in five small groups. Each group should focus on one time period. Discuss what kind of objects they have been given and how they might have been used at Old Sarum. Now, get the students to stand in a chronological line with their objects, creating a human timeline. Once in place, ask them to share what they have discovered with the rest of the class.

EXTRA DETAILS

Objects:

Flint hand axe – an experiment showed it would take 11000 blows to cut down a small tree with one of these.

Arrowhead – made of flint, different shapes include leaf shape, oblique, barbed and tanged.

Bulbous concussion pieces – used for killing animals by hitting their heads.

Burned flint pieces – various uses.

Neolithic (4000BC-2000BC)



Question: Why are so many of these Neolithic objects made from flint?

Objects:

Shoulder blade – from a sheep, probably used as a hand tool.

Antler pick – taken from a deer, sharpened and used as a tool.

Iron Age cooking pot - hand made from clay and hardened in a very hot oven called a kiln. This replica shows the potters' finger prints in the clay.

Iron Age (800BC-43AD)



Question: What do these objects tell you about the relationship between people and their animals in the Iron Age?

Roman (43AD-410AD)



Objects:

Coins – the Romans brought a new money system to England, using bronze, gold and silver coins as currency.

Oil lamp – used for light (no electricity).

Drinking beaker - handmade replica of the type of glass beaker used by Roman soldiers. The Greek inscription translates to 'seize the victory'. The word 'NEIKHN' (victory) has been adopted by the sports company Nike.

Question: What do these objects tell you about the Roman impact on England?

Objects:

Spindle whorl and needles – used for making textiles. The original needles would have been Walrus ivory.

Bronze tweezers and cloak brooch – suggest that the Vikings cared about hygiene and appearance.

Wooden horse carving - a pagan offering or child's toy.



Viking (800-1066)

Question: How do these Viking household objects compare with your own?

Medieval (1086-1260)



Objects:

Clay roof tile - a replica of the type of tile used on the the castle and cathedral roofs. Coated in a green glaze to make it waterproof and more impressive to castle visitors.

Laverstock jug - handmade, probably using a potter's wheel. Named after the place it was made, Laverstock; just a few miles from Old Sarum. Owned by a very wealthy person and used for serving water or wine.

Question: Why would the lord of a medieval castle like Old Sarum want these objects on show when receiving visitors?

OLD SARUM THROUGH TIME ARCHAEOLOGY BOXES

QUICK GLANCE

Learning Objective/s: To investigate objects and understand their links with Old Sarum. To consider how we can use archaeology to learn about the past.

Recommended for: KS1-4

Resource Summary: Six free, bookable archaeology boxes, each containing some of the following handling objects for students to investigate:

- Oyster shell
- Pot rim
- Green glazed pottery
- Black earthenware pottery
- Animal tooth
- Dressed sandstone
- Bone
- Roof tiling



EH Education suggests: Don't forget to book in advance. The Archaeology Boxes feature in our **Top 5 Activities** resource, which you can download from the Old Sarum 'Schools' webpage:

www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/old-sarum/schools/

OLD SARUM THROUGH TIME

HIDDEN NOW HEARD BACKPACKS

QUICK GLANCE

Learning Objective/s: To explore the lives of key characters who were part of Old Sarum's story. To use historical sources and artefacts to think critically and make supported conclusions about Old Sarum's past.

Recommended for: KS2 and KS3

Resource Summary: Fifteen free, bookable backpacks which contain interactive activities. Each backpack focuses on a unique individual who played a part in Old Sarum's 4,100 year history. Each character is linked to a specific location in the outer or inner bailey so students can investigate important features of the site whilst completing the activities. The backpacks are aligned to three broad time periods, allowing you to narrow or widen your approach, depending on your teaching and learning needs.



Each backpack contains:

- a photo map, showing the location of the character
- an illustrated character card for each individual
- an activity folder
- handling objects

Green backpacks: Recommended for KS2, Prehistory to the Norman Conquest, character date range: 120BC-1003AD.

Black backpacks: Recommended for KS3, Medieval Period, character date range: 1086-1260.

Purple backpacks: Recommended for KS2 and KS3, the Victorians to present day, character date range: 1830-2008.



EH Education suggests: Don't forget to book in advance. The Hidden Now Heard Backpacks feature in our **Top 5 Activities** resource, which you can download from the Old Sarum 'Schools' webpage:

www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/old-sarum/schools/

EXTRA DETAILS

For orientation purposes, begin your Hidden Now Heard Backpack session with a brief introduction to the site. For example, you may wish to observe the site from the highest point (the keep). Or you could start by visiting the outer bailey and the inner bailey.

GREEN BACKPACKS

Annan - an Iron Age girl (120 BC)

Lucia - a Roman woman (215 AD)

Aelfred - Anglo-Saxon money maker (1002)

Sweyn Forkbeard - Viking king of Denmark (1003)

BLACK BACKPACKS

King William I - the Norman king (1086)

William of Eu - prisoner (1096)

Baldwin - stonemason (1100)

Bishop Roger - bishop (1102)

Robert - guard (1160)

Eleanor of Aquitaine - wife of Henry II (1170)

John - gong farmer (1260)

PURPLE BACKPACKS

John Constable – Victorian artist (1830)

William Hawley - archaeologist (1909)

Elsie Smith - Auxiliary Territorial Service (1944)

Susan - wildlife surveyor (2008)

Looking After the Backpacks

- The backpacks and groundsheets can be collected at the visitor centre by asking a member of staff.
- Please ensure that your group only handles small items over the groundsheets to avoid dropping or losing them in the grass.
- Before handing out the backpacks to your students, please remind them of the importance of taking care when handling items.
- Students will need to make sure that they pack the contents of the backpack away again when they have finished so that it is available for another group to use.

ANGLO-SAXONS AND VIKINGS

SAXON SHIELD WALL

QUICK GLANCE

Learning Objective/s: To understand Old Sarum within the context of Viking raids. To explore Anglo Saxon defence tactics and Viking attack tactics by re-enacting a famous battle.

Recommended for: KS2 and KS3

Resource Summary: This free, bookable resource consists of 8 Saxon shields and 8 Viking swords (lightweight). You and your class can make the most of the shield and swords by using the historical background and battle re-enactment script we have provided.



Split your class in half and use our swords and shields to re-enact the Battle of Searobyrg. Give the swords to the Vikings and the shields to the Saxons. Each side should stand in a line, facing the enemy opposite them. You, the teacher, can take on the role of the commander and use the battle re-enactment script provided.

EH Education suggests: Don't forget to book in advance. The Saxon Shield Wall features in our [Top 5 Activities](#) resource, which you can download from the Old Sarum 'Schools' webpage:

www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/old-sarum/schools/

Here, you will find a script to help you with the re-enactment.

EXTRA DETAILS

In 1003AD, the nearby town of Wilton was being attacked by a vicious band of Vikings, led by the formidable King Sweyn Forkbeard. The Saxons retreated to the defence of Old Sarum (then known as Searobyrg) to make a stand, using their strongest defensive manoeuvre- the shield wall. The Saxons managed to defend themselves against Sweyn Forkbeard at Old Sarum. This event is now known as The Battle of Searobyrg.

MIDDLE AGES - THE NORMANS

THE OATH OF SARUM (1086)

QUICK GLANCE

Learning Objective/s: To understand the purpose of the Oath of Sarum, within the context of the Norman Conquest. To recreate the Oath of Sarum. To develop empathy with those who swore the Oath.

Recommended for: KS2 and KS3

Resource Summary: A free, bookable resource recommended for classes studying the Norman Conquest. This resource consists of a William the Conqueror costume, 2 Norman kite shields, 2 Norman helmets, one sword, one crown and one chain mail coif.

EH Education suggests: You can make the most of the props and costumes by downloading the **Activity Pack** from the Old Sarum 'Schools' webpage: www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/old-sarum/schools/

The Oath of Sarum activity sheets include step-by-step instructions on how to recreate the oath, questions for students to consider, plus reconstruction drawings to help you to visualise the setting. Don't forget to print the activity sheets and book in advance.

EXTRA DETAILS

On the 1st August 1086, twenty years after the Battle of Hasting, William the Conqueror summoned all of his landholding men to Old Sarum to swear an oath of allegiance to him and his council. This was an important administrative exercise. William was in the process of establishing his rule in England and compiling a huge list of all his land and property in the Domesday Book. His subjects had to swear loyalty so they could be given a slice of the prize.

It was also an act of great political theatre. William insisted that the allegiance owed by the landholders to him was more important than their loyalty to their immediate overlord. From then on, if a lord were to take up arms against the Crown, the first loyalty of his sub-tenants would be to the English king.



MIDDLE AGES - THE NORMANS

BUILD ME A CATHEDRAL

QUICK GLANCE

Learning Objective/s: To identify the features and purpose of a Norman cathedral. To construct a miniature version of Old Sarum's second cathedral.

Recommended for: KS2 and KS3

Resource Summary: A free, bookable resource recommended for classes studying Norman churches. This resource consists of a Bishop Roger costume, two measuring wheels, building blocks and a giant cathedral floor plan.

EH Education suggests: You can make the most of the costume, measuring wheels, floor plan and building blocks by downloading the **Activity Pack** from the Old Sarum 'Schools' webpage:

www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/old-sarum/schools/

The Build Me a Cathedral activity sheets include cathedral measuring challenges and a letter to students from Bishop Roger, outlining the task plus job sheets and reconstruction drawings, to help students to focus on their part of the cathedral building task. Don't forget to print the activity sheets and book in advance.

EXTRA DETAILS



The cathedral foundations were marked out in the grass after excavations were concluded in 1915. Students should try to spot the different outlines of the first cathedral (gravel) and the second cathedral (stone).

Bishop Osmund built the first cathedral at Old Sarum. Work started on it in 1075, soon after the castle. At the time, the church and state worked closely together, and it made sense for a cathedral to be built in the outer bailey of the royal castle.

Osmund's cathedral burnt down in a thunderstorm in 1092, just five days after it was consecrated. Bishop Roger soon replaced it with a second cathedral on the same spot, in a more ornate version of the Norman style.

Bishop Roger wanted to build something far more impressive. He built new transepts and a presbytery (area reserved for the clergy) with a vestry (treasury).

The cathedral was designed to show the power and glory of God, just as a castle reflected the status of a lord or king. To reinforce this, no pews were provided and the congregation had to stand, much as they would have before a lord.

MIDDLE AGES - THE NORMANS

FOLLOW OR REBEL?

QUICK GLANCE

Learning Objective/s: To explore themes of power, loyalty and rebellion during the Norman period. To use role play to empathise with the conflicting opinions of Norman lords in the years following William the Conqueror's death. To develop supported opinions about the actions of rebel and loyal lords.

Recommended for: KS2 and KS3

Resource Summary: A free, downloadable resource recommended for classes studying the climate of rebellion in England in the years following the Norman Conquest. This resource consists of teacher instructions and a script to help with a whole class role play and debate.

EH Education suggests: You can make the most of this activity by downloading the **Activity Pack** from the Old Sarum 'Schools' webpage:

www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/old-sarum/schools/

The Follow or Rebel? activity sheets include step-by-step instructions for the teacher on how to conduct the role play, and a script for students to use. Don't forget to print the activity sheets and book in advance.