



ENGLISH HERITAGE

LEARNING AT STONEHENGE

Inspiring the Future



Transforming learning at Stonehenge

Stonehenge is a world-famous prehistoric site visited by millions of people each year. But it's far more than just a tourist attraction.

It's an iconic structure that combines Neolithic engineering with timeless design. It's an unsurpassed archaeological treasure trove, and a place at which ancient mysteries are being unlocked by cutting-edge science. It's a unique monument to the enduring power of community and collaboration. And it's a place where we can inspire future generations to connect with – and care for – our precious, irreplaceable past.



We already welcome over 60,000 schoolchildren to Stonehenge each year, and we receive excellent feedback from teachers and students. But demand is growing, and the lack of dedicated educational facilities means that we can only offer a limited range of activities and experiences. We want to enhance our learning programme to ensure it does justice to this remarkable World Heritage Site.

That's why we're launching our project, Learning at Stonehenge: Inspiring the Future. We'll create new, hi-tech, inclusive and environmentally sustainable spaces for students, including a learning laboratory dedicated to STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) as well as a reconstruction of a Neolithic building based on archaeological evidence from a nearby prehistoric settlement, to be used as a classroom. We'll also develop an innovative 'STEM in Heritage' programme and ensure that all our facilities are fully accessible to everyone and respond to diverse learning needs.

This is a once in lifetime opportunity to create a Learning Centre at Stonehenge that is worthy of the monument's significance. It is important we get it right. The Learning Centre is designed to respond to the landscape around it and we have already been consulting with Historic England and Wiltshire Council, ICOMOS and UNESCO.

Environmental sustainability is central to the project. The new Learning Centre building will be a low carbon structure and our immersive 'Neolithic classroom' will be made of materials that would have been available in pre-history. English Heritage is currently working with an expert educational panel in addition to schools and schoolchildren local to the site, so that we can ensure a world-class educational experience.

This trailblazing new project will set the standard for heritage education for years to come. With the help of visionary supporters, we'll create a world-leading education offer to enable children and young people to connect with our past like never before.

Thank you for your support.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kate Mavor". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kate Mavor
Chief Executive, English Heritage



What is Stonehenge?

The story of Stonehenge and its wider landscape stretches back thousands of years.

The earliest evidence for construction at Stonehenge itself comes from 3,000 BC, when the circular ditch and outer bank were first constructed. The famous stone circle was erected in the late Neolithic era, in about 2,500 BC, with its axis along the line of the midwinter sunset and the midsummer sunrise.

From Roman visitors to medieval scholars, and from antiquarians to modern archaeologists, every generation has been fascinated by this elegant and enigmatic structure. Over the centuries we've discovered much about how it was built, and many theories have been put forward as to why. Whatever its purpose, Stonehenge continues to inspire a strong sense of awe, humility and reflection in those who visit today.

Education at Stonehenge today

We're proud of what we've achieved already at Stonehenge.

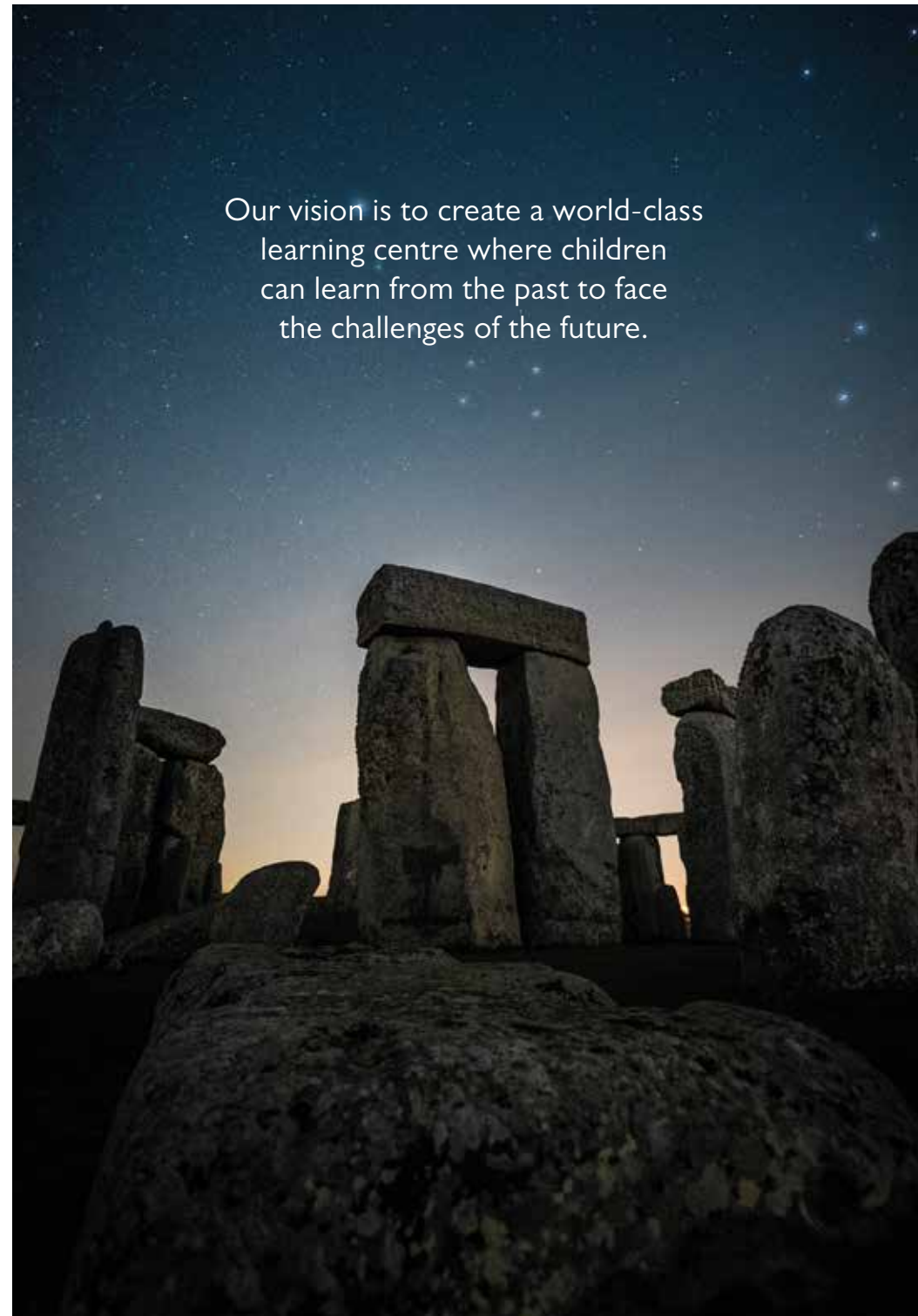
Around 48,000 children visit Stonehenge on free school trips every year, and a further 12,000 on our expert-led Discovery Visits. Teachers can download free resources, developed by experts, to help guide their visits and draw links with the curriculum. 87% of teachers rate their experience at Stonehenge as 'excellent*', and our work has been recognised by prestigious five-year Sandford Awards in 2016 and 2021

But we must go further. Stonehenge is a world-famous monument, and it deserves a world-class educational experience to match.



*(2019-20 annual education visitor survey, RDSi).

Our vision is to create a world-class learning centre where children can learn from the past to face the challenges of the future.





Learning centre

A new dedicated Learning Centre will transform our ability to deliver best-in-class educational experiences for students, with our award-winning, innovative and oversubscribed Neolithic Life Discovery Visit at the heart of our offer.

A STEM lab, learning studio and inclusive facilities will be housed within a sensitively designed building with outstanding environmental credentials.

With high-tech equipment and specialist educators, students will enjoy an exceptional learning experience.

This trailblazing new project based at the visitor centre will feature:

- An inspiring STEM learning lab able to accommodate a full class of 30 students.
- A second full-size flexible, welcoming education space.
- A digital production studio.
- Accessible and inclusive practical facilities, including a Changing Places space, a smaller break out space for those with different education needs, lockers and lunch areas.
- A multipurpose foyer which can host events and creative displays.
- An inspiring open-air courtyard supporting sensory learning.



Artist's impression of the new learning centre

Neolithic building

English Heritage volunteers and experimental archaeologist Luke Winter will help us create an immersive 'Neolithic classroom', based on archaeological evidence from the nearby landscape.

Our aim is to transport learners back to the time of Stonehenge. The building will be made of materials that would have been available in pre-history and these materials will be sourced locally: the roof will be thatched, the walls and structure made from locally coppiced timber, and the daub and limewashed walls sourced from Wiltshire chalk deposits. This 'Neolithic classroom' will be large enough to accommodate a full class of 30 students, who will gather around the hearth, handle replica tools and learn about daily life in the Stone Age. Through this immersive experience tailored to the curriculum, they will discover how archaeology reveals the buried secrets of the past.



Artist's impression of the new Neolithic building





STEM in Heritage - new classroom

We believe that by learning from the past we can help shape the future – and that heritage has a vital role to play in widening access to STEM education.

Iconic sites like Stonehenge can inspire young people to engage with a range of disciplines. They can trace the impact of human activity on the environment, learn how prehistoric engineers raised the stones, explore the relationship between the sun and Stonehenge and discover how geophysical surveys can uncover buried secrets.

Our STEM in Heritage programme, designed and developed by an expert multidisciplinary team, will create a ground-breaking template for heritage education across the country. A focus on hands-on discovery and learning will inspire learners of all ages and abilities. Equality, diversity and inclusion will be at the heart of the programme, and digital resources will be made available to ensure that students can learn from Stonehenge no matter where they are in the world.



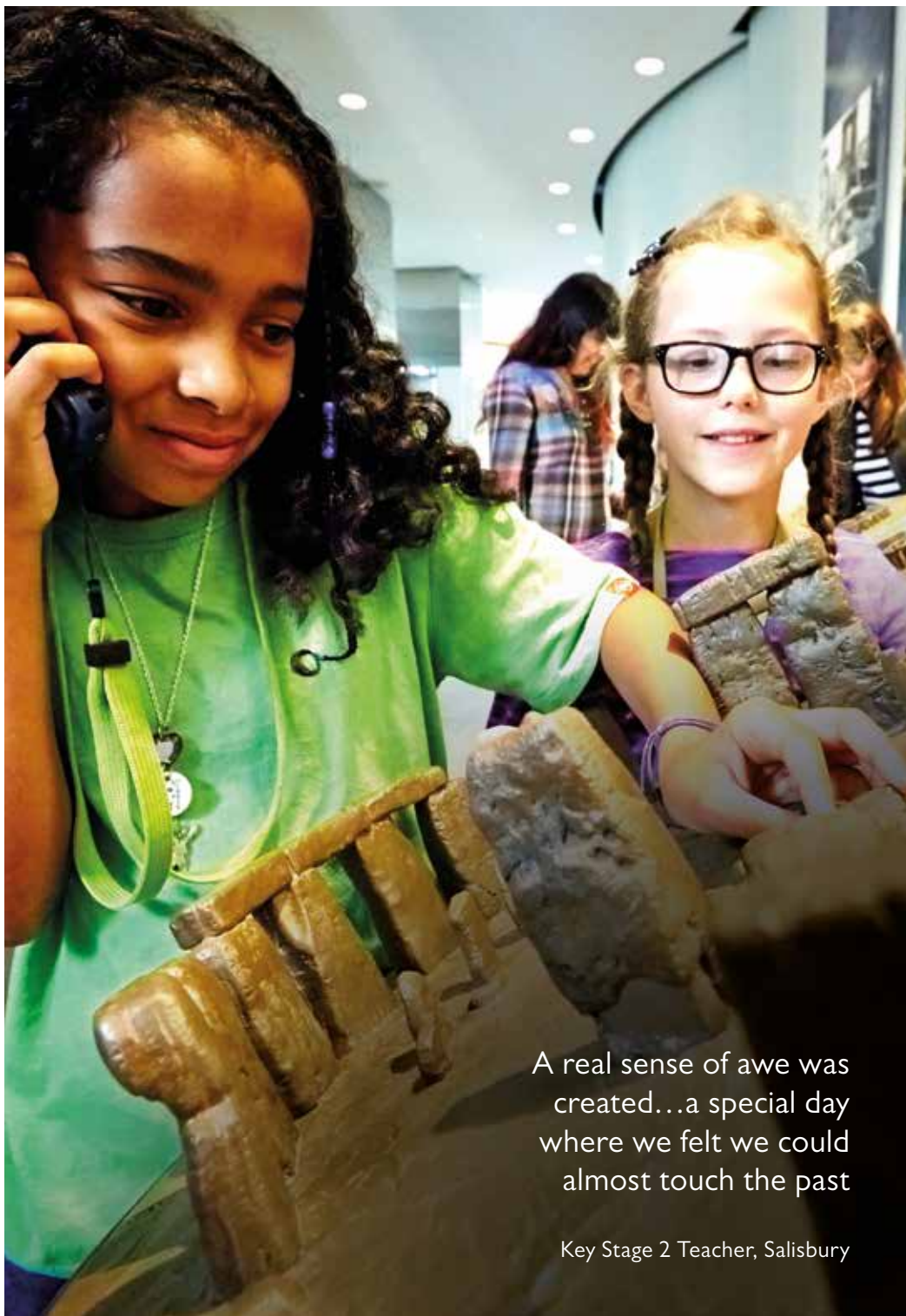
Artist's impression of the new classroom

Inclusive spaces

Stonehenge's existing Discovery Visits are award-winning.

We will design the new Learning Centre and 'Neolithic classroom' to ensure SEND (Special Education Needs and Disabilities) provision is outstanding. Working together with specialist access consultants and SEND learners, the project will deliver excellence in inclusivity – not only designing an accessible building but working to make the spaces and programmes inclusive so that all users will feel welcome, comfortable and engaged within these spaces.





A real sense of awe was created...a special day where we felt we could almost touch the past

Key Stage 2 Teacher, Salisbury

Together, we can transform the experience of generations of schoolchildren at Stonehenge. This is an opportunity to give children and young people the chance to discover the past, think about the future and fire their imaginations. It is a chance for those who are not engaged by science at school to look at STEM subjects in new ways, and to ask themselves: If the Stonehenge builders could create something incredible, why can't I?



ENGLISH
HERITAGE

Step into England's story

SUPPORT US

Our vision is to create a world-class education centre where children can learn from the past to face the challenges of the future. This plan for Stonehenge is bold and ambitious and we need your help to realise our vision.

To discover more about how you can support learning at Stonehenge, please visit our website or email us, we would be delighted to discuss how you could help.

 www.english-heritage.org.uk/stonehenge/inspiringthefuture

 inspiringthefuture@english-heritage.org.uk