

Learning at Stonehenge

Inspiring the
next generation





Inspiring the next generation at Stonehenge

Stonehenge is a world-famous prehistoric site visited by millions each year, but it's far more than just a tourist attraction. It stands as an unparalleled archaeological treasure trove, where ancient mysteries continue to be revealed through cutting-edge science. This unique monument embodies the enduring power of community and collaboration,

inspiring future generations to connect with—and care for—our precious, irreplaceable past.

Currently, we welcome over 60,000 schoolchildren to Stonehenge each year, receiving outstanding feedback from both teachers and students. However, with increasing demand and a shortage of dedicated educational facilities, our ability to offer a wide range of activities has been limited.

That's why I'm delighted to announce that, this year, we're breaking ground on a new state-of-the-art facility that will unlock the educational potential of this remarkable World Heritage Site. The Stonehenge Learning Centre will be home to inclusive, accessible and sustainable spaces including a Digital Studio, Learning Studio and STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) Discovery Lab, where we'll deliver a trailblazing new 'STEM in Heritage' programme.

Later this year, we'll also begin constructing an immersive Neolithic learning space that's inspired by archaeological evidence from the surrounding landscape.

We're creating a world-leading education offer to enable children and young people to connect with our past like never before – and we're only able to do that thanks to donations from our generous supporters. Stonehenge has always been a place of innovation, imagination and collaboration. With your support, we can continue to harness this heritage to inspire learners for many years to come.

To donate visit: www.english-heritage.org.uk/stonehenge/inspiringthefuture

Dr Nick Merriman
OBE, Chief Executive



What is Stonehenge?

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

The earliest evidence for construction at Stonehenge itself is 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 sense of awe, humility and reflection in those who visit today.

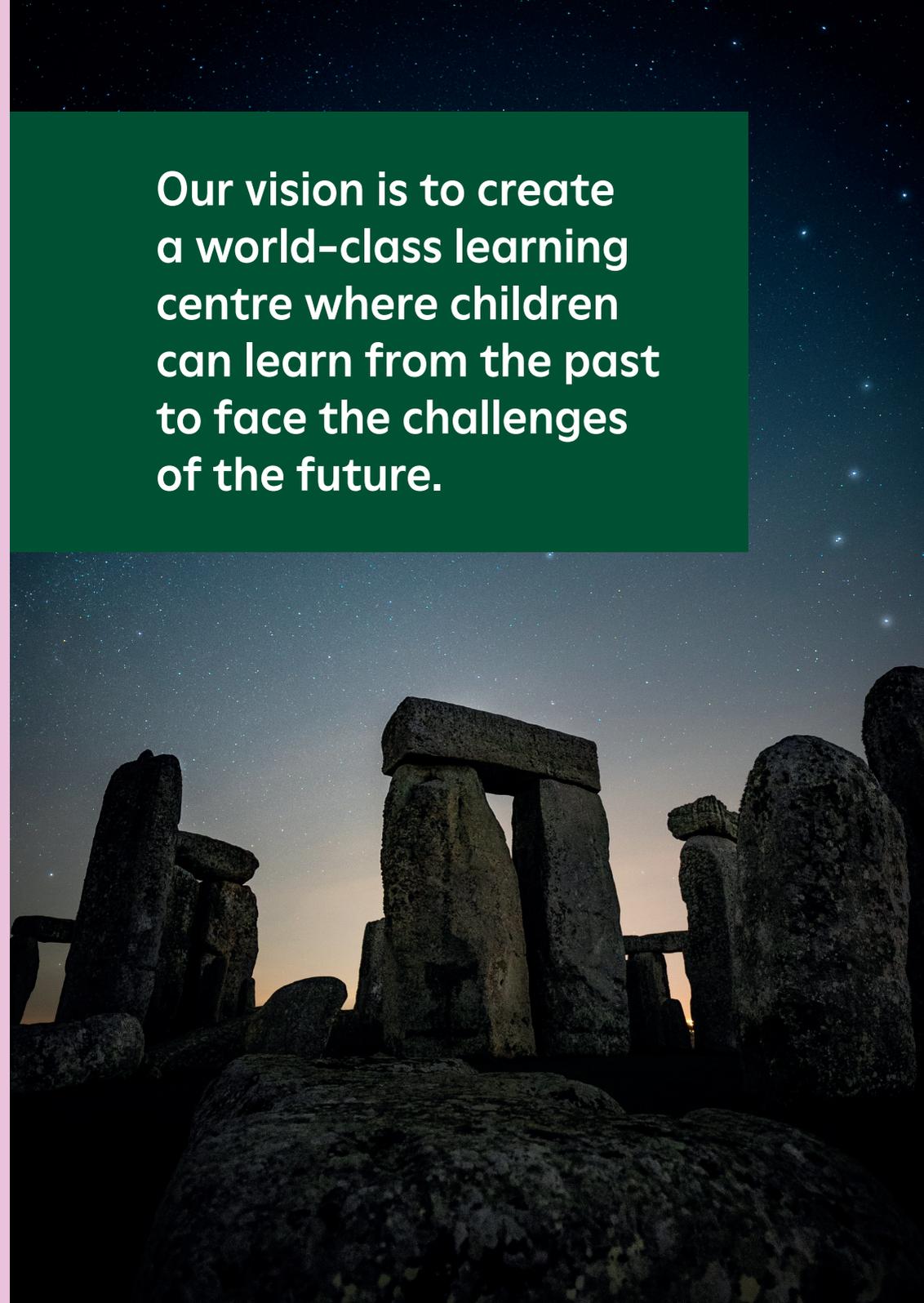
Education at Stonehenge today

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.

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 Discovery Lab, learning studio and inclusive facilities will be housed within a sensitively designed building with outstanding environmental credentials.

With creative digital technology and special educators, students will enjoy an exceptional learning experience.

This new project based near the visitor centre will feature:

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

Neolithic Hall

Our volunteers and experimental archaeologist Luke Winter will help us create an immersive Neolithic Hall inspired by archaeological evidence from the nearby landscape.

Our aim is to transport learners back to the time of Stonehenge. The building will be made of local materials that would have been available in prehistory. The roof will be thatched, the walls and structure made from local coppiced timber, and the daub and limewashed walls sourced from Wiltshire chalk deposits. This hall will be large enough to accommodate a class of 30 students, who will gather around the hearth, handle replica tools and learn about daily life in the Stone Age in an immersive, curriculum-linked experience.



Artist's impression of the new Neolithic Hall





STEM in Heritage

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. Digital resources will be available for students to learn from Stonehenge no matter where they are in the world.



Artist's impression of the Discovery Lab

Inclusive spaces

We will design the new Stonehenge Learning Centre and Neolithic Hall to ensure our 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 by creating an accessible building but by working to make the spaces and programmes inclusive so that all users will feel welcome, comfortable and engaged within these spaces.





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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?



Support the project

We're building a world-class Learning Centre where children can learn from the past to face the challenges of the future – and we need your help.

With your support, we can harness heritage to inspire learners for many years to come. Donate today to inspire the next generation.

How you can donate

Visit our website at:

[www.english-heritage.org.uk/
stonehenge/inspiringthefuture](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/stonehenge/inspiringthefuture)

Or email us at:

fundraising@english-heritage.org.uk

Thank you to the Learning at Stonehenge project donors including:

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