

SITES OF MEANING

Marker Stones for the Millennium

EDUCATIONAL PACK – PRIMARY

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

Primary school visit to Bradford Dale

This pack is designed to help Primary Schools enjoy and maximise visits to Bradford Dale. It builds up information for a subsequent creative writing session. It suggests a route, places to visit and things to do, and identifies *Sites of Meaning* resources for your visit.

The Bradford Dale sites are within easy reach of both Middleton and Youlgrave and this walk takes in a number of interesting sites besides the marker stones. Water is a commonly recurring theme and a prepared notebook is included to record children's responses to each site.

We explored Bradford Dale extensively with Youlgrave Primary School during *Other Stones – Other Meanings*. The children documented their experience in the dale with cameras and in notebooks before returning and writing poems with David Fine. The poems were later exhibited during the 2004 village well dressing and lines from poems were used for *Sites of Meaning* marker stones. The route includes two stones with text written by the children.

The Route

The circuit starts in Middleton Square (ample parking including coaches), travels along the road to Youlgrave (light traffic), drops down from Roughwood Hollow into Bradford Dale (heavily wooded), carries up the river into Rowlow Dale (open fields, cattle in summer), and returns by Lowfield and Weadlow Lanes (very light traffic) to the village.

The circuit could be started by walking up Bradford Dale from Youlgrave. For younger children the route could be shortened, returning to the village after the Sheep Dip or the Clapper Bridge, both routes shown on the map.

Sites Visited

Roughwood Hollow Kerbstones – written by Youlgrave Primary School

Bradford Dale Bridge

Bradford Dale Dams

Sheep Dip and Sheep Dip Stones – written by children from Middleton

Old Pump House and Sough

Clapper Bridge

Rowlow Brook Stone

The Gift (which used to supply water to the village)

Resources

1. The 18 Sites of Meaning stones, Middleton by Youlgrave, Derbyshire.
2. *Sites of Meaning* website, www.sitesofmeaning.org.uk. Consider particularly sites at Roughwood Hollow (1 & 2), Bradford Dale Bridge (3), Sheep Dip (4), Clapper Bridge (6) and Rowlow Brook (7) that are all on the suggested route. There is also a section on *Other Stones – Other Meanings*.
3. *Sites of Meaning* downloads, particularly
 - The Parish Map showing the locations of the different sites.
 - *Other Stones – Other Meanings* brochure;
 - *Other Stones – Other Meanings* poems written by Youlgrave Primary School;
 - The working drawings for the Roughwood Hollow Kerbstones (2) and the Sheep Dip (4)
4. *Our Middleton*, a history of Middleton and Smerrill, written by its parishioners.
5. Appendix: Prepared notebook.

The Gift in Middleton Square - the old water supply!
Who do you think the gift was from?

Who do you think the gift was to?

Why is water a gift?

Who would you like to give water too?

Imagine a conversation between villagers collecting water.

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VISIT TO BRADFORD DALE

YOUR NAME

YOUR CLASS

Roughwood Hollow Kerbstones

*Down the dale feel the wet soggy dogs
which have just come out of the river.* - Alice Marsden (YSP)

What would the wet soggy dogs feel like?

What would the wet soggy dogs smell like?

*He's beautiful, golden, white fur, wild, free,
ready to come and go as he pleases.* - YSP

Who is beautiful with golden white fur?

What sort of animal would you like to be in the dale?

Clapper Bridge

*Consult the Genius of the Place in all;
That tells the Waters or to rise or fall.* - Alexander Pope

What animals might pass over this bridge?

What sounds would they make?

If the bridge could speak what would it say?

Lowfield Stone

The peace of running water to you - Celtic Benediction

Is the water peaceful today?

What sort of water do you find peaceful?

What sort of water do you find exciting?

The Old Pump House – opposite the sheep dip

What would be the sound of the engine pumping the water?

How would people have got water to the village before the pump?

Sough where water runs out of the hill.

Can you see the pipe from where the water was drawn?

How would you describe this water?

Before you leave Bradford Dale

Close your eyes and listen - what sounds do you hear?

Bradford Dale Bridge

*Still glides the stream, and shall forever glide;
The form remains, the function never dies.* - William Wordsworth

Is the water gliding today? Or is it rushing or racing?

What sound does it make?

Touch the moss in the letters with your fingers – how does it feel?

What colours do you see in the bridge?

Bradford Dale Dams

Why do you think these dams were built?

Gaze into the water

What do you see in the water? Can you see fish?

What are the reflections on the water?

The Sheep Dip

Imagine it full of sheep.

Do sheep like being washed?

What noises would the sheep make?

What noises would the water make?

The Sheep Dip Stones

*In late May or June, The farmers brought their sheep,
To wash their fleeces, In this deep pool - Ena Prime*

*Burbling, bumbling, bleating over each other like a flock of sheep
it dipped. The waters bleat like a flock of sheep it dipped. Dip
your ghosts into this hard, cold merky place. Hear their bleat in
the water's rush to escape. The foam like wool pulsates. Damp
leaves nothing behind but the trees' readiness. Middleton
Children*

What words do you like in this sculpture?

What others words would you add?