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Home: the forgotten front of the First World War

New teaching resources that make use of a special recording app can inspire young people to unearth hidden stories from the home front of the First World War, says historian Dan Snow.

The resources are the latest stage in the Home Front Legacy project led by the Council for British Archaeology (CBA) and funded by Historic England. The project encourages communities and young people to identify and record the social and physical impacts of the First World War across the UK. The Home Front Legacy website (www.homefrontlegacy.org.uk) now records over 2,000 First World War sites and includes colour cartoons and other educational resources aimed at young people in primary school and for use out of the classroom.

Dan Snow, President of the CBA, said: *“What happened across the UK during the First World War is an essential part of our heritage and the cultural changes were enormous. Women replaced men in the factories, airfields sprung up, coastal defences were built, training camps established and practice trenches built. There were internment and Prisoner of War camps, as well as new forms of communication.*

“The archaeology of the Home Front is vast. With these new resources, young people in and out of the classroom can help to discover and map missing parts of the Home Front jigsaw and learn map reading, research and recording skills at the same time.”

The cartoons are by acclaimed artist David Chisholm and depict aspects of home front life on land, sea and air. The featured buildings, military activity and people going about their day-to-day business are based on real places and events.

Session plans developed for primary teachers are accompanied by training videos presented by young people and a guide to using the Home Front Legacy recording app. The resources

are also available to the leaders and members of the CBA's Young Archaeologists' Club branches that are run throughout the UK, as well as for any other youth groups who want to learn about the heritage of their local area.

Since its launch, the Home Front Legacy project has prompted research into the legacy of the First World War locally. The hidden remains of experimental sound mirrors used to provide early warning of enemy aircraft were uncovered on the South Coast (www.homefrontlegacy.org.uk/wp/case-studies/sound-mirrors/), whilst another project mapped First World War pillboxes, built when invasion seemed possible (www.homefrontlegacy.org.uk/wp/case-studies/identifying-first-world-war-pillboxes-in-the-uk/).

"Everyone can be involved in discovering the legacy of the Home Front, not just schools. Local involvement is easy and is a way of contributing to the protection of your local heritage" Dan Snow said.

To get involved in the Home Front Legacy project visit www.homefrontlegacy.org.uk or follow it on Facebook [/homefrontlegacy](https://www.facebook.com/homefrontlegacy) , or Twitter [@homefrontlegacy](https://twitter.com/homefrontlegacy)

ENDS.

Images to support this release are available from this [OneDrive](#) folder with more available on request.

For more information, or to arrange interviews with Dan Snow, President of the CBA or Mike Heyworth CBA Director, please contact:

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Notes for editors

The Council for British Archaeology (CBA)

For over 70 years the Council for British Archaeology, as an educational charity, has been promoting archaeology for all, and is the leading voice for the public interest in archaeology. Active in making the case for archaeology nationally and with grassroots community groups, the CBA works with a wide range of partners nationally, regionally and locally to safeguard the UK's historic environment, make the case to decision makers that archaeology matters, and encourage everyone with an interest in archaeology to get involved.

The Young Archaeologists' Club is co-ordinated by the CBA and is a network of 70 branches across the UK run by volunteers for 8-16 year olds to have hands-on opportunities to get involved with archaeology. The new resources are also available on the YAC website www.yac-uk.org.

Project partners:

Home Front Legacy 1914-18 is a partnership project, with funding from Historic England, and supported by a wide range of organisations including the Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers (ALGAO UK) to enable communities across the UK to preserve their local knowledge and enhance future understanding of the impact of the First World War on Britain's landscape and consciousness.

Historic England (formerly known as English Heritage), is the public body that champions and protects England's historic places. It looks after the historic environment providing expert advice, helping people protect and care for it and helping the public to understand and enjoy it.

In England the project will feed field observations into local authority Historic Environment Records and relevant National Monument Records on the Heritage Gateway website, expanding our knowledge and influencing future protection for remains.

Queen's University Belfast (with funding from the Arts and Humanities Research Council) are using the recording toolkit with local groups and volunteers to encourage wider participation in First World War research and archaeology and to add to the sites and buildings documented in the Northern Ireland Sites and Monuments Record.

Historic Scotland, Archaeology Scotland and ALGAO Scotland are taking the project forward in Scotland to encourage participation in First World War recording and enhance records and archives for the Centenary and beyond.

In Wales, Cadw and the Welsh Archaeological Trusts are encouraging volunteers to identify, record and document sites and update Historic Environment Records with new local knowledge.

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