



Interpretation of Goblin Combe & Cleeve Wood

Interpretation Strategy

*for future development of signage,
publicity materials, leaflets,
booklets and the website*

Woodcut incorporated into interpretation panel: Lindy Clark



Preface

The document that follows remains as a record of both recommendations for:

- the future development of signage, publicity materials, leaflets, booklets and the website,
- a record of the ALSF interpretation project.

The project was completed at the end of 2006. In implementation, it departed little from the draft strategy. Unanticipated areas were as follows:

Feedback from draft outline strategy

Helpful comments were received Kenton Keys and:

- Buzz Buzby (ALSF/EH) requesting that one of the first two leaflets to be produced be on the theme of quarrying, mining, aggregates etc rather than the SSSI and wildlife at this stage.
- Anthony Rylands (Access Officer for Disabled People, NSC) requesting that interpretive material be available in alternative formats. The main action seen to be required as a result of this is to produce the leaflets in large print format.

Main achievements of the project

- Thorough education programme with four schools
- Wide consultation with local people and organisations and work with Woodland Group
- Devised and arranged discovery project for Rathbone Trust attendees
- Researched, wrote and designed seven panels
- Produced multi-layered editable map, useful to the GCEC throughout all future operations
- Commissioned panel stands in local, sustainable timber from local timber products cooperative
- Researched, wrote and designed two leaflets
- Produced two large print versions of leaflet
- Project artist produced four tactile panels which also form useful body of illustrative material for use by GCEC
- Final design strategy for future interpretive work.

Unexpected Spin offs

The project's breadth was extended in a number of ways that arose from the process:

- Links with Backwell School firmly established with annual visits/bookings taking place since the 'taster' workshop offered by this project
- A collaboration to update the wider interpretation of the site with Avon Wildlife Trust added two more interpretive panels to the set and established closer working arrangements
- The work of wood-carver Lindy Clark has become a key part of the Centre's interpretive identity
- Latex mould of the carved panels for future use
- A style, using prints from carvings, has been established for the series of leaflets that is to follow as part of the ALSF project

The Future

The project has met the criteria outlined in the project design, and intellectual access issues have been addressed through it. This document, the Design Concept document, the leaflets and the interpretation panels set the style for future development.

Potential Future Projects to Develop

1) The Campsite

With the growth of the GCEC and the new residential facilities, a project to develop intellectual access to its history is called for. Originally bought by the legendary Reverend Skinner for his daughter, the land has been in continuous use as a campsite since 1923. Backing onto the SSSI, it was administered philanthropically by the University Settlement of Barton Hill, Bristol to provide holidays for the urban poor, seeing particularly heavy use during wartime. Because the reminiscences of the wartime generation will soon be lost, such a project cannot be undertaken soon enough.

2) Prehistoric North Somerset

During the GC & CW interpretation project of 2006, it came to the attention of C&M associates that little seems to be known about the relationship between the many contemporary prehistoric enclosures in N Somerset. Yet the area would seem to be one of the most fertile anywhere for such study/re-interpretation.

The long term, wide-reaching aim of this project would be to increase knowledge of pre-history in N Somerset, raise awareness of the area's prehistory within the wider community, whilst promoting the GCEC and developing intellectual access to the historic environment of N Somerset in general.

The project could be of any size, scope and duration, according to resources available.

Some possible activities:

- excavate the SAM at Cleeve Toot and provide opportunities for the public to participate
- raise awareness for GCEC/wider community of N Somerset and beyond
- involve schools/community groups in signalling project involving many hilltop enclosure sites

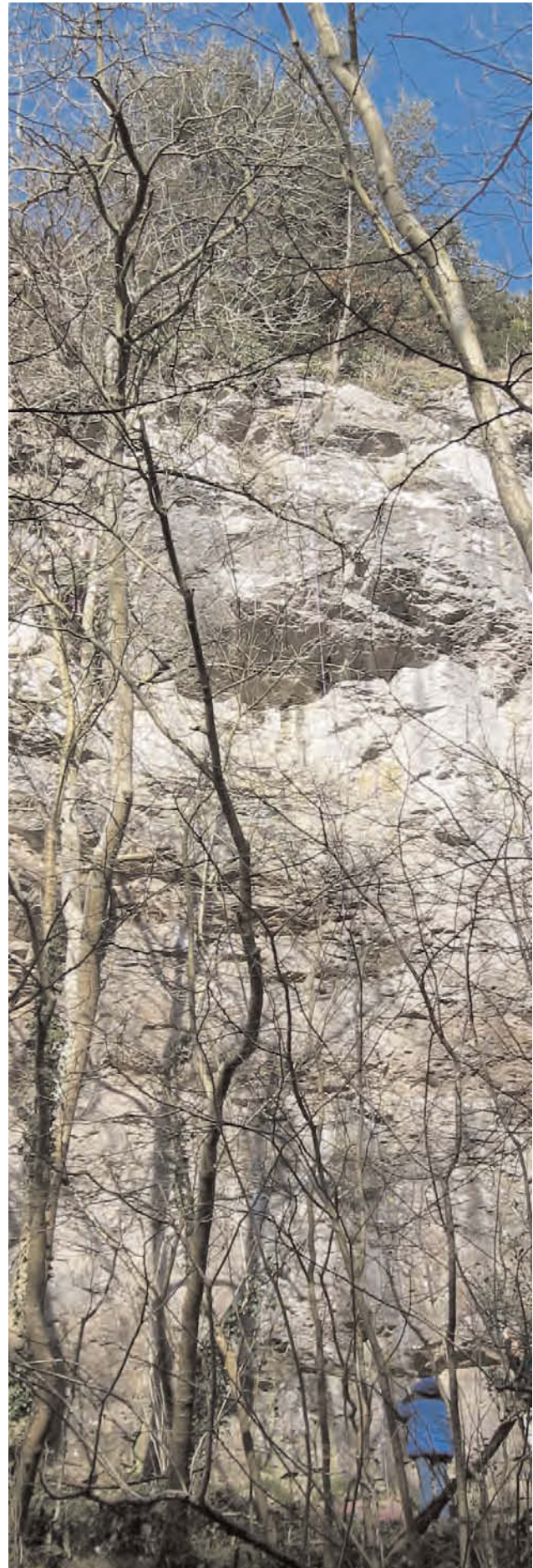
Suggested partners:

GCEC
North Somerset Museum
Bristol Museum
Vince Russett / Community Archaeology groups
Martin Fletcher, Buzz Buzby – English Heritage
Natural England

1 February 2007

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Introduction

A cause for action

Goblin Combe and Cleeve Wood is a popular destination for both local people and visitors who come to enjoy the dramatic landscape with its deep gorge-like combe and high vantage of Cleeve Toot.

The site contains a Late Bronze Age / Early Iron Age hillfort, evidence of mining, semi-ancient woodland and flower abundant limestone heath as well as quarried areas and scree extraction sites left over from the days when the area produced stone and aggregate.

Until recently, intellectual access to the wealth of heritage assets offered by the site have been limited. There was little on-site information to explain or highlight the geology, rich wildlife, historical or cultural content and context of Goblin Combe and Cleeve Wood. Access and recreational routes through the site are also under-developed though these are subject to a rolling programme of improvements.

In recognition of this former lack of access, the Goblin Combe Environment Centre Manager worked with the Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund Adviser for English Heritage throughout 2005 to secure funding for an interpretive project.

C&M associates, specialists in heritage interpretation, learning and design, prepared a detailed project plan to inform an application for funding. This was submitted to the ALSF in the summer of 2005 and grant aid was approved in October 2005.

C&M associates were appointed in October 2005 to implement the approved Project Design which was delivered in two stages and completed in December 2006.

Brief report on the project – Stage 1

The preliminary stage focused on information gathering, research, education and consultation to inform the direction and scope of Stage 2 of the project.

A draft interpretation strategy document was prepared towards the end of Stage 1 to take in the findings of a programme of engagement with schools, the local community and other interested parties. It also made recommendations for Stage 2 of the project.

A Draft Goblin Combe and Cleeve Wood Design Guide followed the Draft Strategy. Both documents have been amended and approved to become final strategy documents.

Stage 2

In accordance with the approved draft documents this stage resulted in outputs that improve intellectual access to the site and provide future guidance to the Centre regarding all interpretive and design matters.



Summary of approach

The wider context

The project aims to address the lack of intellectual access by developing interpretation in a manner that will strengthen the community value of the site and support the aims of Goblin Combe Environment Centre (GCEC). The interpretation will also express the importance of the quarrying of Goblin Combe and the industry of Cleeve Wood in shaping the local landscape, built environment and economy.

The value of deepening the understanding within the broad community of their local, historic landscapes is regarded by Goblin Combe Environment Centre and North Somerset Council as an important element in developing countryside access and usage for both local rural and urban populations - a view expounded by the Department for Culture, Media & Sport in their publications *Power of Place* and *A Force for our Future*.

This project will meet a number of recommendations outlined in these reports. In particular, the project will provide a physical and intellectual link between the wildlife and heritage content of the site and the local communities, as well providing further opportunities for education, lifelong learning and community involvement.

With a remit that includes public access to the countryside, the Countryside Agency's have provided half the funding for this project. English Nature have a statutory responsibility for the SSSI and any and all works within the SSSI will be carried out in close consultation with their officers. GCEC will be relying heavily on EN to provide the specialised ecological information and advice required in order to make sound decisions regarding the SSSI and Ancient Semi-natural Woodland. The Forestry Commission also supports improving intellectual access to this site.

Community significance of Goblin Combe and Cleeve Wood

Goblin Combe and Cleeve Wood is a wonderfully diverse and engaging landscape. Visitors from the locality and nearby conurbations can easily reach this attractive site that also offers camping and residential facilities to groups.

The Goblin Combe Environmental Centre Trust, is committed to a long-term programme of environmental and visitor management, which will improve access, conserve habitats and deepen

visitor's appreciation and knowledge of the site. GCEC already runs an extensive programme of activities, some of which are dedicated to exploration and discovery of the area.

GCEC also works with other groups who come on regular weekly day visits. Among these are excluded secondary school children and young adults with mental health problems. Some have participated in this project as outlined in the project design.

There are many opportunities for the community to participate with the activities of GCEC and the creation of the interpretive material will be achieved through community consultation and participation.

This interpretation project has great value for the community to participate in knowledge sharing, intellectual access, physical access and navigation around the site, as well as contact with GCEC and progression to further engagement activities.

It is of considerable relevance that in an area where there are already a number of significant Scheduled Ancient Monuments, it has come to light during the preparation of this report that the existence of further ancient settlements in the area has been confirmed.



Consultation

An outreach strategy for working with schools, young people, local community groups and knowledge holders was developed at the outset of the project in October 2005.

One aim was to garner the expertise of the local interest groups, and to provide depth and breadth to areas of investigation. Their input in determining the content for the panels as well as locations for the panels and future signage is proving invaluable.

All outreach work was based on thorough research, good practice, experience and mindfulness of BT's Access for All guidelines and the National Lottery's Learning for All.

Specialist groups and knowledge holders

The consultees were wide-ranging. This reflected the diverse nature of the site and the not inconsiderable number of interested groups. These consultations and workshops together with ideas put forward by the GCEC and C&M associates informed future strategy for interpretation and engagement.

By letter

Consultations with community groups, knowledge holders and other interested individuals took place during November and December 2005. Letters (see Appendix 1, p. 20), with an accompanying site map that could be marked and returned were sent to:

Martyn Watson (Yatton History Society)
Dot Baker (Backwell Naturalists & Wildlife Wardens)
Tony & Faith Moulin (Yatton & Congresbury Wildlife Action Group - YACWAG)
Chris Spering (Hawk & Owl Trust)
Mary Campbell (Yatton History Society)
Mr Short (Local historian)
Dr Bryan Smith (Local historian)
Dr Mary Pitman (Local historian)
Mrs Hilary Burn (Local historian)
Chris Richards (North Somerset Ranger/geologist)
Vince Russett (North Somerset Council Archaeologist; Yatton Cleeve and Claverham Archaeological Research Team, YCCART)
Tim McGrath (Avon Wildlife Trust)

Telephone and email

Where necessary or appropriate, further or other contact was made with:

Judith Tranter - Wildlife Wardens
Kevin Carlton - Landscape Officer, Strategic Projects, North Somerset Council
Richard Bland - Bristol Naturalists' Society

Follow-up calls were made to –
Martyn Watson (Yatton History Society)
Dot Baker (Backwell Naturalists & Wildlife Wardens)
Tony & Faith Moulin (YACWAG)
Mary Campbell (Yatton History Society)
Mr Short (Local historian)
Dr Mary Pitman (Local historian)
Chris Richards (North Somerset Ranger and quarrying historian)

Meeting

It was intended that a half day "round-table" discussion session would take place to lead to a summary being circulated to all those contacted for comments.

A 'twilight' meeting was subsequently arranged at the GCEC for 7 December. A poor turnout may have been explained by the extremely stormy, unpleasant weather and general pre-Christmas clashes. The meeting with C&M associates was attended by Martyn Watson (Yatton History Society). Apologies were received from:

Chris Richards - North Somerset Ranger
Mary Campbell - Yatton History Society
Tony And Faith Moulin (YACWAG)

Nevertheless important knowledge-holders were identified and contacted via this process and were consulted more fully as the project progressed. Instead of the intended full day review to digest and incorporate views, ideas and implications, subsequent meetings took place with:

Vince Russett
Tim McGrath
Tony & Faith Moulin
Chris Richards
Mary Campbell

Extracts from consultation

“Under the Enclosure Act (1810) and Award (1813) of Yatton, which then included Cleeve, the plot of ground now occupied by the quarry was allocated as the 'parish quarry'. This was to be used by certain landowners for their own purposes and also for the repair of the roads constructed over the enclosed commons of the parish (Weston Mercury Feb 25 1966).

The local Gosling family in the 1920s was carrying out quarrying here and the stone was being used on roads outside the terms of the Enclosure Award. Quarrying was consequently stopped (Weston Mercury Feb 25 1966).

The step profile is typical of quarries using hand held rock drills (compressed air operated or otherwise) where men had to work actually on the face itself. The sheer faces in the east part result from rock-break along fault planes affecting the configuration of the face.

The shotholes in the face are unusually large and have a spheric triangle cross-section. I would suppose they date from before 1883 (the date of the survey) using hand held borers of jumpers and fired with gunpowder.

The 1884 OS 25" = 1 mile map shows the present face in the same position as it is today. On this map were two other faces, one facing NW and running SW from the east end of the present face, the other facing west and forming the eastern boundary of the site. The 'diagonal face' represents working at a lower level than the 'boundary face'.

By the 1903 revision of the same map only the present face and the west-facing 'boundary' face remained. Presumably, the 'diagonal face' had been quarried back to the line of boundary face' to form a single face. I have not seen the 1929 revision to ascertain working arrangements later than 1903.

It is evident that much of the quarry has functioned as a landfill site proving the present carpark so the latest faces in the quarry are buried.”

Chris Richards

“I am Regional rep for the BTO, and President of the ornithological section of the Bristol Naturalists' Society. I have details of Cleeve Wood heronry back to its origins. It is of course an AWT reserve.

The BTO is conducting nationwide woodland surveys this summer (i.e. 2006). Goblin Combe had an unsatisfactory one done last year, and I would be happy to discuss the details with anyone. Key parts of Goblin Combe are also AWT reserve, but presumably you have consulted with them.

The Bristol Naturalists' Society journal is happy to publish reports on local reserves. This journal goes to 600 members, and to many similar journals on exchange through the country.

Please let me know if I can be of help. The Combe is a vital local site of huge importance for its unusual Yews.”

Richard Bland

“We have known Goblin Combe for 30 years. Thank you for your letter about the work you are doing on interpretation of Goblin Combe. We may have some slide transparencies (have slide scanner so can give you digital images if preferred) of wild flowers in Goblin Combe - from memory wood sorrel, stinking hellebore, primrose etc.

We have a copy of a lithograph from Rutter of Cleeve Toot which is very interesting. Would recommend you take a photo of an original (in Bristol Reference Library). I understand toot = place of human sacrifice.

I think you should have something about the trees - especially the yews and whitebeams. Also something about the limekilns - could be at the sites - showing why and how lime was burned. The ramparts etc. of the hill fort also need some interpretation. I think it would be good to include something about the conservation management of woodland and grassland on the noticeboards.”

Best wishes, **Tony and Faith Moulin**

Mary Campbell kindly provided a six page document from the the Yatton History Society Archives. It was particularly helpful for place names and context.

Work with schools and young people

Four schools or centre-users were identified as possible participants in these projects - two primary school and two secondary school aged groups. To create a new participatory model, these were to include a nearby school that was not yet a Centre user (Yatton Infants) and an inner-city Bristol school (Gay Elms Primary, Withywood) to which the local, contrasting area would be less familiar. An aspiration to re-establish and develop a link with the closest secondary to the Centre, Backwell School was also expressed by GCEC, although this was not included in the project design.

Eight half-day workshop activities to work with these groups were envisaged, in what it is hoped will become a sustainable programme of enriched educational work that GCEC could deliver to a wider range of groups as part of its long term developmental strategy. Although these aims were not achieved in the time envisaged, the programme appears to have met its main aims:

- Ideas, impressions, and aspirations about Goblin Combe and Cleeve Wood have been teased out in the activities to be included in the interpretive items and to help inform the project artist.
- The relationship between the cultural, historic and natural environment and its connection with quarrying and aggregates extraction in the area was explored.

Good practice from this work has been extracted and written up as part of this strategy document for the Centre to use with other schools.



Yatton Infant School

This School was new to the Centre and as it caters only for Key Stage 1, represented the youngest group to participate. A Year 2 class (6-7 years old) took part in two workshops with wildlife professional Helen Jones, a volunteer wildlife ranger, a geologist and the project artist, despite very poor weather.

In the first half-day workshop children explored the area observing and drawing natural forms and collecting natural materials. In the second half-day workshop they used simple print-making techniques to produce prints from both their drawings.

As outlined in the project design, the artist will create woodcuts inspired by the above process. These will be incorporated into carved wooden panels in the wooden stands and frames of the interpretive panels. These relief elements will be both informative and decorative. Rubbings (using paper and crayons) can also be taken, and their tactile qualities appreciated by the visually impaired.

The material created by the print workshops will also be displayed on the website, become part of the project archive and may be used in the design of the leaflets and the interpretation boards.

How this workshop fits into the National Curriculum

Activities in these workshops linked appropriately to many of the National Curriculum Programmes of Study and these Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA) Units:

- Science, Unit 2b Plants and Animals in the local environment
- Science, Unit 2c Variation
- Art, Unit 2b Unit x Mother Nature, designer.

The workshops thus helped to bridge the gap between the arts and sciences, and addressed the aspirations of the DfES Primary Strategy for Excellence and Enjoyment - a teacher guidance document calling for more inspired cross-curricular teaching - and less prescriptive 'tick-box' teaching.

The children's work was displayed as it was completed at GCEC so that the children could see the combined result of their individual efforts. The school followed up the visit with an exhibition of their print-making and items collected for their own 'museum'.

Good practice recommendation for future work with Key Stage 1/ new school visitors

- Make sure the smaller set of chairs and tables are available and laid out in the classroom in advance.
- Ensure that the kit outlined in the planning document is readily available at the Centre.
- A coach to transport the children would be very much more satisfactory than making three separate trips by minibus. This took far longer than anyone anticipated and was one of the reasons for exceeding the time allocated to the work in the project design.
- To note the teacher evaluation if re-briefing facilitators.



Teacher evaluation - Claire Adams

“In spite of rain, the morning was very good. The alternative route and site worked well as it was safe, relatively sheltered and there were still plenty of things for the children to find. The colour palette and collecting activities were very successful and the children enjoyed exploring the woods to look for colours and items for the ‘museum’.

In the afternoon I thought that there was not sufficient space, tables and chairs for all of the children to work comfortably. The Art activities themselves were good and I would use them in school. I did feel that, at times, the pace needed to be a bit quicker and that there should’ve been less time between activities as the children were getting a little restless and some were off task.

Much of the art work is on display as it fits in well with the current Autumn theme in our classroom. Unfortunately, we have not done any follow up work for Science or Geography as it does not really fit in with what we had planned and already started for this term. If we were to come again, we would probably plan to come in the spring or summer term when the activities would better fit our Science scheme of work.”

Court de Wyck Primary School, Cleeve

Two half day geological exploration workshops were held on the same day with a class of Key Stage 2, Year 3 children (7-8 year olds). The aim was to contribute to curriculum enrichment for the children and at the same time, to help inform the interpretation of the area's natural history with particular emphasis on the landform, geology, past quarrying and uses of local stone.

The local area lends itself well to the KS2 Science curriculum. The morning began in Cleeve Quarry to look at how sedimentary rock is formed, what its physical properties are, and how suitable it is for different purposes. A walk along the combe to discover fossils which had kindly been left observable by geologist Chris Richards proved very popular.

Reference was made to Cleeve Church as it is known to these local children. The building was reputedly built from 151.5 tons of stone from Cleeve Quarry. Through this reference and other activities organised for the day, the local impact of quarrying on the natural environment was explored.

On returning to the Centre, children were given the opportunity to develop map skills and consider some of the different ways of looking at a place using the following resources:

3D model of area
Aerial photograph
Geological map
OS map

How this workshop fits into the National Curriculum

This school had already used the woods when participating in the Earthkeepers programme offered at GCEC. This particular class had also previously begun work on Rocks and Soils. It proved helpful in terms of maximising integration with existing schemes of work that the children were also engaged in topic work about the Victorians.

Activities were linked to existing programs of study and QCA Units within the National Curriculum. These were:

- Science, Unit 3D Rocks and Soils
- History, Unit 18 What was it like to live here in the past?
- Geography Unit 6 investigating our local area

Teacher evaluation - Judith Amil

"Our visit to Goblin Combe was very worthwhile. The children had the opportunity for hands-on learning which they really enjoyed. Goblin Combe was an ideal place to visit, the different strata levels really showed up well in the quarry, and the children were fascinated to see the channels which the Victorians had channelled out for the dynamite.

It was great having an expert geologist, who could tell us the history of the different rock formations and let the children find evidence from the ice age and also fossils from a coral reef!

The visit fitted in really well with our Science topic of rocks and soils, and our History project on the Victorians, and really did help to "bring history to life!"

I am sure the children will join me in saying thank you to you and the team who made this possible."



Gay Elms Primary School, Withywood

This south Bristol school regularly sends small groups of pupils to Goblin Combe and Cleeve Wood. Working with a different educational approach and a new group of children provided a model for wider work with schools outside the near locality.

With the help of Kirsty Wilson of CSV Environment, a group of six 'Gifted and Talented' Year 6 (10-11 year olds) attended the Centre for a half day workshop on local distinctiveness and "A Sense of Place".

On an exploratory walk, the children observed local buildings, with special attention focused on the production of aggregates and their uses.

The children explored the combe using viewfinders to select a specific view which they observed and drew in detail with the guidance of the project artist. Adult volunteers helped children to collect things and to draw out the colours, textures, details, vistas and atmosphere of the chosen view.

A week later, in an independent activity, the children made a similar, comparative study of Dundry Slopes, a locality closer to home in south Bristol.

The project artist returned to the school in a third week where all the impressions, drawings and findings from the previous two sessions were brought together to create a series of works that reflected the comparison /contrast between the two landscapes.

How these workshops fitted into the National Curriculum

The study lent itself well to delivering a Unit of Study from the National Curriculum for Art & Design, A sense of place (Unit 6C). Rather than being a 'one off' workshop however, the series of three workshops supported by the project enabled delivery of this full Scheme of Work in which:

"...children explore the rural and/or urban landscape as a starting point for two-dimensional work. They record their observations through drawing and photography. They use shape, form, space, colour, texture and pattern to develop and communicate their ideas in a painting. They consider the ideas, methods and approaches of artists who have responded to landscapes in different ways."

C&M associates regarded this developed programme as a particular strength of work with this school particularly because involvement by project staff was fairly minimal.

Teacher evaluation - Julia Daubin

"Thank you so much for three fantastic days. The children and staff involved felt the experience was particularly beneficial. The Goblin Combe afternoon was a cross curricular experience that allowed the children to experience science, geography in a real sense always a more valuable lesson. They remembered many of the key words from the day for a long while afterwards and used these to phrase questions related to the experiences.

The afternoon in school was a high level art lesson. The children were really looking forward to this and the end products were really beautiful, they certainly felt a sense of pride! The ways to apply paint and the use of contrasting colours were skills they would be able to re apply."



General recommendations for future work with primary schools

- Ensure a GCEC staff member/hired facilitator is available to support the group
- Outside staff would ideally know the site and the Centre well
- Make changes to the arrangement of the classroom to enable better access for 20+ children
- Where possible, visits need to be planned with a long lead-in time so that they may better fit in with schools' current programmes of study.

Work with Secondary Schools

The Rathbone Trust

The GCEC had identified the potential participating groups that would be drawn from those already attending the Centre. Following discussion with Matt Evans, supervisor, it was decided that the most suitable group to work with would be excluded 14-15 year olds from the Rathbone Trust.

The group varies from week to week as attendance is not compulsory. Staff ratios to participants is also far higher than with mainstream students. However, it was decided to attempt an ambitious session to take place in the woods on the theme of Celts, tribal groups and metalworking, drawing inspiration from the Bronze Age/Iron Age hillfort. The session aimed to explore the ideas and mechanisms of what it might have been like to be a member of a tribe and the importance of being able to co-operate as a part of a group.

The first activity was delivered in an informal, friendly manner, focusing on group games and exercises which emphasise and use the key skills of communication, emotional literacy and co-operation. With the expert help of experienced facilitator Vicki Smith, the group of young men (all participants were male on the day) took part in controlled arm wrestling, as our ancestors may have done.

After lunch, Celtic decoration was introduced as a starting point. Individual participants then devised a badge or emblem to represent their group or tribe. Participants transferred their designs onto brass sheet (brass is more malleable than bronze) using simple metal working techniques.

It was hoped that some of these metal emblems would remain on site and decorate the interpretation board stands, but results though laudable were of mixed quality. For this reason and because more interest than expected was expressed by the participants to take the emblems home, the idea of inclusion was dropped.

How this workshop fits into the statutory orders for education

In addition to the project's aims, the workshop aimed to support the development of key skills (ASDAN) with some preparatory and follow up work delivered by tutors / supervisors off-site.



Teacher evaluation – Matt Evans

“It was excellent. They were all on task, and it fitted with everything they are doing. We intend to repeat some of the elements and would do it all again anytime. Thank you.”



Backwell Secondary School

It is an aim of GCEC to forge better links, as existed at a past date with the nearest secondary school – Backwell. As the last workshop to take place as part of this project (due to the school's curriculum needs) and because time on schools work had been exceeded by C&M, it was decided that brokering a sustainable link between the school and the Centre, was the appropriate way forward. In practice, C&M were needed to co-ordinate delivery of a workshop for 24 Year 10s (14-15 year olds), that would involve Chris Richards as project geologist.

The workshop departed slightly from that in the project design partly due to ensuring timing that suited the school's termly planning and to ensure curriculum relevance to Backwell as well as meeting the project's aims. The focus however, did remain firmly on the exploration of aggregates and quarrying, through a study of limestone as a component of scientific enquiry.

A walk to the best-preserved limekiln in the woods complemented an area of curriculum study on blast furnaces. A walk along the Combe to see scree slopes and to look for evidence of evolution followed with every opportunity taken to point out various items related to the SSSI, woodland management and conservation while also provoking thought about what it is about the local geology that can be captured visually and that creates local distinctiveness.

It is particularly pleasing that Backwell School has also booked the GCEC for a whole week in July 2006, breaking a 10 year old tradition of visiting Pembrokeshire for the annual field trip with older students.

Teacher's comments prior to visit

"The plan looks great. Generally walking about looking at interesting things, in particular the lime kiln (they look at blast furnaces in class) and fossils (evidence of evolution) would be good. It may be a good idea to have the practical involving different rocks up our sleeves incase the weather looks bad and we need to retreat indoors.

I will get the kids to take lots of pics and record some notes with a view to making a presentation in the science corridor in school. Or perhaps a powerpoint to the year group about the visit. I did like the animal/veg/min sheet you sent as this is quite a key area for them in double Science."

Teacher post-visit evaluation

"Setting up the morning event was very easy and I received lots of helpful information and support. Simple things like getting a risk assessment, copies of worksheets etc, sent to me removed hurdles. It was particularly useful being able to use the mini bus. The location itself was great with enough room for my 21 students and 3 staff. The day itself was well targeted to the students we had with us. Chris lead an informative walk which covered quarrying, formation of limestone, local history and management of the countryside. At the end of the day I did a quick survey among the students and was very pleased to hear that they had all enjoyed it and learned something. Thank you all for your help."

Paul Pritchard



General recommendations for future work with secondary schools

- The 'tribal' workshop could be adapted to work with the young men's mental health group that attend the GCEC.
- The link with Backwell should be fully supported by GCEC for a number of reasons: transportation is easy because of proximity, smaller groups, future field trip bookings, as yet undeveloped mutually beneficial working relationships, and because it provides a useful model for opening up GCEC more fully to other secondary schools in the area.

Towards Stage 2

Material produced through the process of consultation provided a resource from which a number of outcomes were derived.

These included:

- the content of the interpretation
- design ideas
- location of features
- other forms of engagement between the community and this environment etc.

From this, the consultants produced:

- An outline strategy document to guide the second stage of the project. Following next will be an outline design concept for future development of signage, publicity materials, leaflets, booklets and the website. From Stage 1 some very useful information has been gathered.

From the schools projects –

- Strengths and weaknesses of hosting education projects at GCEC have been found and should form useful guidance to the centre.

- From some of the exploratory processes very interesting aspects and details of the site that would not have been noticed without expert assistance have been discovered e.g. fossil evidence of an ancient coral reef, or shot-holes where the quarry face was drilled for explosives.

- By exploring Goblin Combe with children some useful perspectives on themes and ways of explaining or appreciating certain subjects which will be useful in making the same subjects appealing to a general audience have been discovered e.g. explaining sedimentary rock using sand and a layered cake.

- Attractive images which have been produced by the children using arts and crafts techniques have been collected; some of these may be used on the interpretation panels, in the leaflets and on the GCEC website.

- Photographs taken during the schools' workshops can be used for documentation and PR purposes (with the schools' permission) by GCEC and ASLF. C&M associates have already supplied schools with copies of photographs of their visits to GCEC.

From the consultation process with the local interest groups and individuals:

- Knowledge-holders from within the local communities have been identified
- 'Routes of cooperation' between these local knowledge holders and interpretive processes have been identified e.g. Backwell Wildlife Group member has participated in schools' workshops and YACWAG members will be local contact for project artist.

Consultation with:

- local interest groups and individuals is ongoing.

- professional advisers will help to ensure that the broad range of environmental information suggested by Goblin Combe and Cleeve Wood is recognised within the process – consultation with professional advisers is also ongoing.

- Avon Wildlife Trust who manage adjoining areas of Cleeve Wood will ensure continuity of waymarking and presentation between the two sites

Summary of outputs

The project outcomes have been informed by the processes that have taken place in Stage 1 and will be used to contribute to the content and design of a number of interpretive panels, leaflets and signage as well as formulating a long-term strategy for development of public engagement and enjoyment of the site through these media.

Following preparation of longer term design guidance and consultation with the management of GCEC, the first stage interpretation will be designed and produced. This will address the broad content of the site including the wildlife, geology and archaeology as well as human uses of this landscape including quarrying, aggregate use and woodland management. General recommendations follow for:

- interpretive panels
- leaflets
- signage and waymarking

Production of six interpretive panels

Following production of detailed briefs to artists and illustrators, design of interpretation boards and leaflets and commissioning production and installation will follow.

Good practice will be followed, through referring to guidance offered by the Association for Heritage Interpretation and the Learning and Interpretation officers at English Heritage. C&M will also look at signage developed for the Maelin Heritage Trail in Cumbria and the leaflet developed for the Bestwall Project which will cover the hill fort, heritage, natural world and aggregate aspects of the site.

C&M associates will agree the position and theme(s) of each panel with the project advisers. Currently we put the following forward for discussion. Please see the next page for a map showing approximate suggested locations for panels:

Panel A - Introductory board at GCEC which introduces the Centre, the combe and woods and the general themes and features ie. fort, Toot, gorge etc. Indicates the quarry, extract from old school register.

Panel B - As a part of the existing notice board, the routes around the site ie map with colour coded routes (in conjunction with a sign post).

Panel 1 - Bronze Age / Iron Age settlement in the context of other sites in immediate area, exploitation of landscape; perhaps reference to place names.

Panel 2 - The landscape past and present - wild plants and animals familiar to / used by the Celts - woodland management now.

Panel 3 - Lime production, exploitation and usage, lime for mortar lime for fertilizer. How limestone was formed, limestone cycle. How a limekiln worked. (info about lead and ochre mining might also be displayed here).

Panel 4 - Geology, the formation of the Combe, the Toot, ancient corals and ancient seas, the limestone screes / wildlife of the gorge (ferns), why SSSI designation. folk tale of the gorge + Tolkein/literary links

Panel 5 - The limestone grassland, diversity of plants and animals (butterflies) grazing and habitat management.

We will take into account the need for people to be able to orientate themselves and follow trails around the area. Most panels will contain a map to facilitate this need. Panels showing maps should, where possible be sited at the actual orientation they replicate for ease of viewing. The prevalence of woodland cover will probably remove the need for any panels to face towards the bleaching effects of sunlight.

The project artist (who will be working with the local wildlife group) will be producing carved panels which will be integrated into four of the interpretation board stands. This will carry images of the wildlife of the locality which will be both a source of illustration for the interpretation boards but can also be used by visitors to take rubbings from. This should have particular appeal to children.

To address the archaeological content of the site we intend to both commission other illustrations from another specialist illustrator ie reconstruction of Celtic settlement and /or source material from the English Heritage archive of illustration.

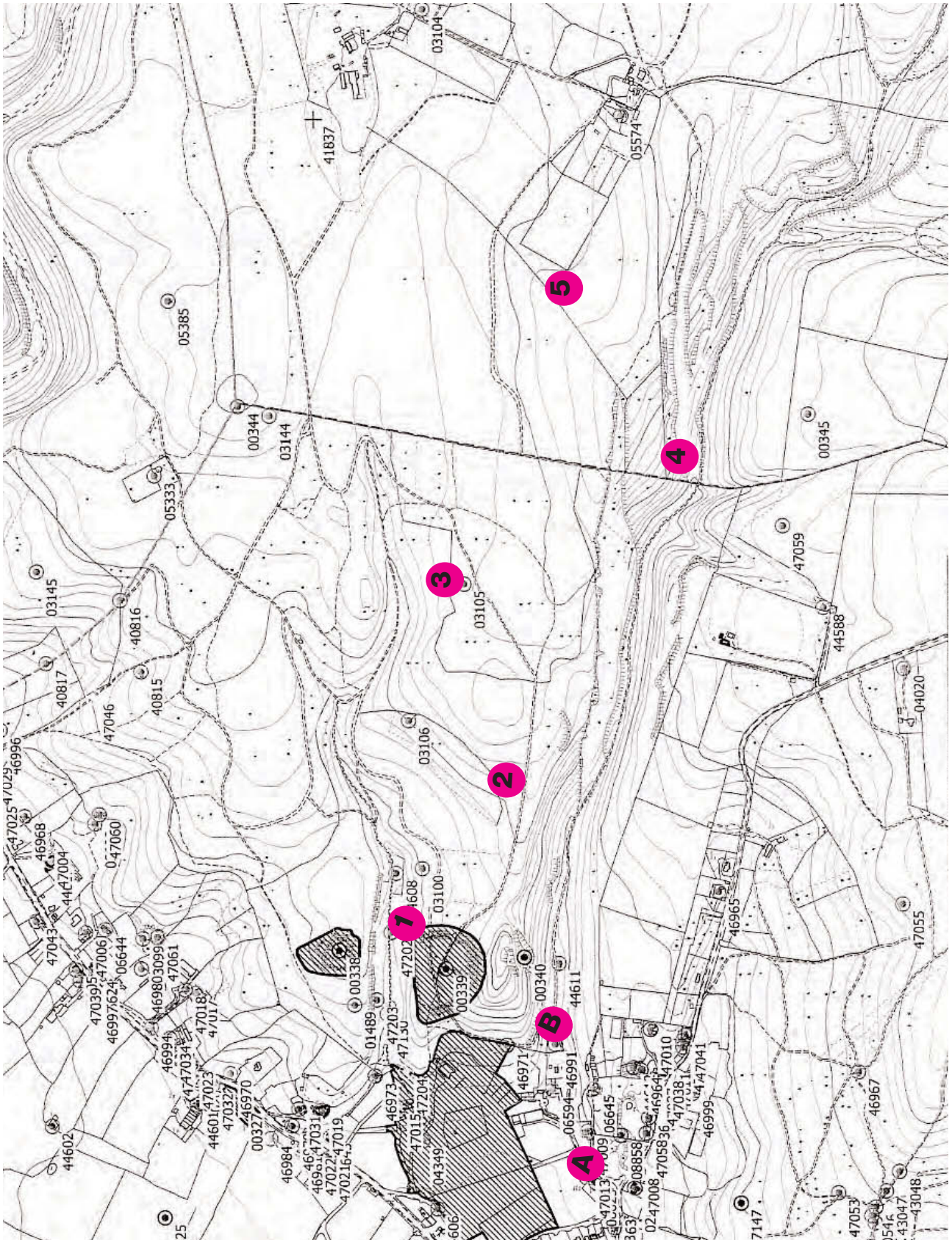
The stands will be made from locally sourced timber by local craftspeople familiar with the locality. We would expect the designs to be harmonious with the woodland setting. The interpretation boards will be designed and constructed to have a life of a minimum of 10 years.

The panels will be A1 in size and are likely to be of landscape orientation rather than portrait because this better suits the shape of the site and how it will be represented on the maps included and also allows for better accessibility by being within the reach of children.

Full account will also be taken of the relationship of the board to each other, particularly should it occur that one may be seen from another. As there are so many routes into the woods, sequencing issues/user experience will also be addressed.

The design approach for these panels is to use high quality visual material including maps, diagrams and specially commissioned artwork from illustrators who are already expert in their field i.e. historical reconstruction and wildlife - accompanied by engaging written material.

We will be pleased to take on board any comments now which may have a bearing on the draft design report which we should have produced at the end of February/early March.



Location map of proposed positions of interpretive panels (see previous page for details)

(Map taken from the North Somerset Council's Sites and Monuments Record)

Production of two leaflets

The project will produce the first two leaflets in a series of six. We expect these first two to address:

- The wildlife of the Combe and the SSSI.
- The archaeology of the SAM and the context of other bronze age/iron age sites in the vicinity.

The themes for future leaflets may be:

- Quarrying, aggregates, limestone, limekilns, mining, ochre.
- Woodland types and management.
- Limestone grassland and other flora and fauna.
- Walks and what to look out for.

Each leaflets would probably contain the same map with different information displayed according to the theme.

We would expect these to overlap with information already presented on the boards, sharing some of the same subject matter and illustrations.

We would also hope to use some of the visual materials generated by the schools projects within these publications.

It is intended that, in parallel with the production of the panels, the first leaflets will set the design parameters and style for the set as well as other related printed information issued by GCEC in future.

The format is likely to be A3 folded to DL printed in full colour on recycled paper.

We will be pleased to take on board any comments now which may have a bearing on the draft design report which we should have produced at the end of February/early March.

Other forms of engagement

At the Centre

A supporting programme of training and workshops to guide wider intellectual access is already well implemented by GCEC. The Centre runs many short courses on natural history that are both site specific and of more general interest, in addition to family days where wildlife conservation features prominently.

It may be worth extending this programme to include more that is related to the built and human heritage of the site such as:

- the SAM in its wider regional context.
- roleplay and re-enactment.
- more online and publication based information.

An inspiring model and support for developing this work may be found in the new English Heritage Strategy for Learning to be launched in April 2006. Using the GCEC as a venue for the in-service training of e.g. North Somerset teachers may also be worth considering as a future development relevant to building activity and a new client base at the new GCEC Centre.

Outreach

Analysis of current course participants is likely to reveal that it is a particular audience that regularly visit the Centre. It is outside the scope of this of brief but a programme of outreach work to engage hard-to-reach audiences and to build new audiences from groups and individuals who are as yet not 'heritage consumers', would be worth achieving new funding for. This would include participants from the inner-city, and may also address the needs of the mobility impaired.

Archive

Any materials gathered from the research and community work undertaken as part of this project will be made available for archiving at GCEC to form the basis of a research resource for the Centre and the local community. Copies of any written literature will be made available to any participants in the project if required. Any unwanted materials will be disposed of.

Launch and unveiling event

When the permanent interpretation is complete, there will be an unveiling event /guided walk of the outputs to launch the project. Local schools, community groups, councillors, English Heritage, English Nature and officers from North Somerset Council will be invited to attend. English Heritage and GCEC will lead media coverage, in liaison with the press office from N Somerset Council.

Signage and Waymarking

C&M associates are not responsible for producing any physical signage or waymarking but we are asked to advise both on the methodology and design. Such consideration would enable these features to be included in the design guide. This, in turn, would allow for other elements, such as the map and the interpretation boards and stands, to be considered as an integrated whole within the interpretation scheme.

From the network of paths that permeate the site (including the adjoining land managed by the Avon Wildlife Trust) it is possible to identify a number of very satisfactory circular routes.

These routes however will have segments of certain paths in common. This is a complicating factor in the simple labelling or colour-coding of these routes.

The relation between any map and the waymarking / signposting is clearly important and the two need to support each other. Maps can be repeated on the interpretation boards and be portable when used on leaflets etc.

Nevertheless it is quite easy to get lost in the woods and quickly disorientated and there needs to be a clear system of producing signs which can be easily recognised and followed without cluttering the woods with unnecessary signage.

The GCEC managed land also adjoins land managed by Avon Wildlife Trust and as many of the routes cross what is often an invisible boundary within the woods it is important for the visitor that any waymarking or signposting system remains reasonably uniform between the two sites.

It should also be pointed out that the woods and combe are not without danger – the cliffs being the most obvious. The path which follows the cliff edge on northern side of the gorge has claimed one fatality in the last 10 years. Clear signage and warnings have to be sustained where there are such hazards – having said this it is important that visitors are able to continue to enjoy the spectacular aspects of the site while being properly cautioned to its dangers.



Liz Milner

C&M associates have already arranged to meet up with Tim McGrath of Avon Wildlife Trust to discuss: the system which appears to be already in use in Cleeve Wood (see photo right) to see how this might be supplemented by signposting, the use of other forms of waymarks (as appropriate) and the creation of a footpaths map.

Once again, in the creation of items such as signposts or posts for waymarks etc C&M associates would recommend the use of local materials (wood and stone).

above: The simple use of coloured spots painted directly onto trees is used as a waymarking device in Cleeve Wood.

Other issues at the end of Stage 1

Scheduling

C&M associates have necessarily spent more time organising and implementing the schools projects than originally planned. Similarly the consultation with the local groups and knowledgeholders – once again an essential part of the process – has taken twice as long as the time available.

Mapwork

An essential area of the interpretation yet probably the most complex. It has become clear that hardly any existing maps bear accurate resemblance to what is actually on the ground, and very little information on scale is currently included. Getting lost on potentially dangerous cliffs is a real possibility and good mapwork is, in our opinion, essential.

Issues of OS/Crown copyright also come into play and for these reasons, it is important to work with cartographers who are already licensed under OS terms and conditions. C&M associates have met with North Somerset Council's cartographers to obtain quotes for this map work to be produced.

Mapwork such as that required for this project is created in editable layers to enable essential detail to be included and revised. It can be an expensive process.

Adjoining land

As noted on the previous page, the land to the east of the combe is privately owned, but managed by the Avon Wildlife Trust. Some discussion is needed to determine how far it is desirable and within the context of this project to include accurate map information of the Reserve area. The panel marked no 5 on the possible location map may also need to be discussed.

Wider context

The existence of other ancient settlements and the recent discovery of others that were almost certainly related to one another makes consideration of wider context more important. Additional map work to demonstrate siting and probable relationship may need to be commissioned.

Credits and acknowledgements

Thanks to:

The teachers and students of:

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Court de Wyck Primary School
Gay Elms Primary School
Rathbone Trust
Backwell School

Facilitators:

Helen Jones
Chris Richards
Lindy Clarke
Kirstie Wilson/CSV
Vicki Smith

Volunteers

Jo Young
Volunteer wildlife wardens
YCCART
YCWAG
other individuals and enthusiasts

photos on pages 1&16 © Liz Milner
other photos © Peter Milner

Appendix 1

Letter to knowledge holders

please use this contact information to reply to this letter –
Peter Milner 17 Church Path Road Pill Bristol BS20 0EE
tel: 01275 374904 email: petermilner@beeb.net



9th November 2005

Goblin Combe Environment Centre
Plunder Street
Cleeve
Bristol BS49 4PQ

Dèar

Tel: 01934 833 723
email: enquiries@goblincombe.org.uk
www.goblincombe.org.uk

Goblin Combe and Cleeve Woods Interpretation Project

We're working on behalf of Goblin Combe Environment Centre to tell the stories of Goblin Combe and Cleeve Woods. We are currently gathering personal accounts, facts and other information about the area.

This material will be used to create some interpretation boards and leaflets to help visitors find their way around the woods, as well as appreciate the archaeology, history, geology and wildlife of the area. The project is funded by the Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund.

What do you know about Goblin Combe and Cleeve Woods?

We're asking for your help because we understand that you are a member of a particular interest group or are knowledgeable about the locality. We hope you will be able to come to a gathering of other interested people at the Goblin Combe Environment Centre in early December (see below).

We would be interested to know your thoughts on all or any of the following –

- What themes, stories or information about Goblin Combe and Cleeve Woods do you think should be included in the interpretative panels and leaflets?
- What information would help visitors understand or appreciate the locality?
- Do you have a view as to where panels should be sited? (please use the map to mark these sites)
- Should particular themes be linked to specific sites? (please cite examples)
- Do you have any pictures, maps, books, documents or artefacts that might be useful to scan or photograph (if so please make a list). Can you suggest anyone else who might have any of these items?
- Can you suggest anyone else who should be asked to the meeting or who would like to be consulted? (please provide their contact details)
- Do you have any other comments?

We enclose a map of the area. Please feel free to mark it and return to us or bring it along with your thoughts on the above to a gathering at Goblin Combe Environment Centre **on Wednesday 7th December at 6:30pm.**

If you are unable to come we hope you will be able to send your thoughts via a fellow member of your group or directly to us by post or email (contact details above).

If you would like any further information about the project please call (contact details above).

Yours sincerely

Peter Milner & Ruth Coleman
C&M associates



Ruth Coleman
11 Somerset Terrace
Bristol BS3 4LL
tel / fax 0117 963 3178
ruthcoleman@blueyonder.co.uk

Peter Milner
17 Church Path Road
Pill Bristol BS20 0EE
tel 01275 374904
petermilner@beeb.net