

Burton Constable Foundation: Science Resources for School Visits

What was the issue?

Burton Constable Hall is an Elizabethan country house in East Yorkshire, formerly home to the Constable family. It offers a range of educational visits for children of all ages and has an ongoing need to develop new resources for schools to reflect the new national curriculum. In particular the staff wished to develop science related activities based on the important 18th century curiosity collection but lack the resources to employ a specialist.

How did Museum Development Yorkshire help?

The museum applied for support from Museum Development Yorkshire (MDY), which resulted in help from Mandy Pattison, an educational specialist.

What happened?

Consultation took place between Mandy, the museum staff, Liz Denton from the MDY team and local primary school teachers.

New resources were developed involving a series of scientific experiments and at the time of writing have been used by 124 children from 5 schools. They have proved popular and are judged to achieve their educational outcomes of developing the children's understanding of science.

This project provided the base for developing education resources for schools and building new relationships with local primary schools; some of the schools that took part in the project have since made arrangements to revisit in 2015.

Although the original aim was to develop resources for a wide range of age groups, the complexity of the science collections meant that the resources were most suitable for upper KS2, rather than for younger children. So the project has partially

achieved its objectives and staff are looking for further opportunities to develop materials for KS1 and lower KS2.

Since the project, museum staff have continued to work with local primary schools and have now developed resources linked to the maths curriculum as part of their HLF Stable Block project. The result of all this activity is a much broader appeal for school visits, as schools can tailor their visits by selecting the activities that best suit their objectives and group sizes.

The Foundation is now seeking to appoint new staff to deliver school visits due to the increase in school bookings.

Find out more

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