

Get recording!

Record the evidence of the Blitz and World War Two

Evidence of the Blitz and World War Two is disappearing fast and it is vital that archaeologists record it before it is all gone. Why not start recording the evidence you can see in your area? You can use the photos and the information on the map to help you.

Blitz Archaeology Recording Sheet

Archaeologist's Name: _____ Date: _____

Location of your observation: _____

What is your find? [Tick what you have found]

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1. An Air Raid Shelter | <input type="checkbox"/> 5. A Military building i.e. a Pill Box |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2. A wartime ARP/Fire/Ambulance building | <input type="checkbox"/> 6. Something else i.e. a wartime aircraft or vehicle |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 3. Spalling from bomb fragments | If so what did you see?
..... |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 4. Repaired bomb damage | |

Draw a picture of your find here [include measurements].
Take a photograph if you can.



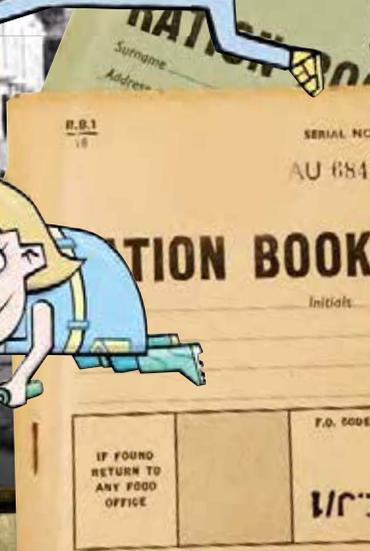
Finally, unlike most archaeology, we can still talk to people who lived this history. Do you know anyone who lived through WW2? See if they want to tell you about what life was like. You could record the conversation to use in school or give to your local library.



Put that light out!

Remembering the Blitz in south east London

BBC HANDS ON HISTORY DIG!



The Blitz Mapped

Even after more than 70 years, wherever you live you can see evidence of World War Two and the Blitz if you know what to look for.

In London the Blitz began at 4.43pm on 7 September 1940 and continued for 76 consecutive nights, during which the German Air Force dropped 18,000 tons of High Explosive bombs, destroying over 39,000 buildings. Helping to protect their fellow Londoners were the men and women of the Air Raid Precautions Service or ARP.

This remarkable map of ARP resources in one small part of Eltham, in south east London, takes us back in time to the height of the Blitz in December 1940. The map would have been used by the the ARP wardens and may have hung in one of their control centres. Backing up the ARP were thousands of Police, Firefighters, Ambulance personnel and messengers, many of them volunteers and some as young as 14.

Imagine that you are an ARP warden and use the map to guide you round these same streets. Can you see the search lights criss-crossing the sky? Can you feel the heat of the burning buildings? Can you hear the sound of the bombs and the anti-aircraft guns ripping through the night?

Between September 1940 and March 1945 29,890 Londoners were killed by enemy action and 50,507 were injured. Without the skills and courage of the ARP and other Emergency Services and the resilience of Londoners themselves, it would have been much worse.

Check out the website to watch my WW2 evacuee adventure, download rationing recipes and find out how to hold an oral history interview! Go to bbc.co.uk/handsonhistory



1 Site of Air Raid Shelters

The Council built Air Raid Shelters in the street and people with gardens were given Anderson Shelters which you had to build yourself.



2 Site of a Public Telephone Box

During World War Two very few people had telephones to report emergencies. The map shows which houses had telephones and where public telephone boxes could be found.



3 Fire Hydrants

It took 500 gallons of water per minute to feed one fire pump. Fire Hydrants were marked with metal signs so the Firefighters could see them and attach their hoses.



5 Bomb Damaged Houses hit on 23 and 27 December 1940

Incendiary bombs caused fires. The blast from bombs blew down walls, smashed windows and tore off roofs. Bomb fragments gouged marks in walls called "spalling." The map shows where bombs fell and on what date.



4 Site of ARP Warden's Post

Based in a Warden's Post, which looked like a small Air Raid Shelter, ARP Wardens kept in touch with headquarters by telephone, checked the blackout and gas masks, kept first aid kits and stirrup pumps to fight small fires, and helped rescue people who became trapped.

