You are going to carry out some fieldwork into the local area to try and discover some aspects of the local history. Use this booklet to lead you through the activities and to record your findings.
Street name search

Street names can be an important clue as to the history of a local area. As you walk around the local area locate, on the map below, any street names which you think could suggest something about the history. When you get back to school you can check out some of your theories to see whether or not you were correct.

The following website may be useful back at school for finding the history of local street names:

www.londononline.co.uk/streetorigins/ - This website has an A-Z of the origins of London streets

www.historyonline.co.uk/freesite_tour/resources/localhistory/streets.html - This website has links for street names in Edinburgh, Suffolk, London and Dublin as well as giving useful search tips.


Have a look at the photographs on the next few pages which were taken at some point in the past, their locations are shown on the map below. Go to each location in turn and try to take a photo from exactly the same position. Compare the modern day setting with the photo from the past and make a note of any similarities and differences.

All photographs with permission from the Buckinghamshire County Museum.

Similarities and differences?
Similarities and differences?

Stick your photo here.

Similarities and differences?
Similarities and differences?

Stick your photo here.

Similarities and differences?

Stick your photo here.

Similarities and differences?
Go into the museum and turn left. Next to two stone figures there is a large lump of stone with a small hole in it. What was it used for and where was it found?

Now, have a look at the cabinet ‘Bucks people’. What does the bowl labelled ‘2’ (next to the flowery boots!) commemorate?

Turn into the Roman room. Sketch and annotate one of the Roman pots which were found in Bucks. How would the storage jars be sealed?

A sketch of a Roman pot found in Bucks.
Now, go into the room ‘Treasure of Bucks’ and find the display called ‘Celtic gold’. Can you answer the following questions?

How many coins are in the collection?

__________________________________________

When do they date from?

__________________________________________

Which tribe do they belong to?

__________________________________________

Where were they found?

__________________________________________

Have a look at some of the fossils which were found in Bucks. Sketch your favourite in the box below. How old is it? Where was it found? What is it a fossil of?

___________________________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________________________

Now, move to the section on Victorian Aylesbury. Aylesbury was a large village before 1800. However, between 1800 and 1900 it saw a number of changes. What were some of these changes?

___________________________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________________________

Image by Flickr user portableantiquities and licensed for reuse under Creative Commons License.
Look at the section on crime and punishment. Where were trials held and where was the ‘old’ prison?

___________________________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________________________

Who was John Tawell? What did he do?

___________________________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________________________

Now, go upstairs to the second floor of the museum. Have a look at the map showing the growth of Aylesbury and shade in the map below. Make sure that you have a key.
Look at your map. Can you describe the growth of Aylesbury?

___________________________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________________________

Finally, have a look at the display entitled ‘The hidden poor – children’. Read Arthur Feasey’s story. What happened to him? Do you think this was fair?

___________________________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________________________

If you have time, pick up a sheet called ‘Jury Trail of Aylesbury’ which walks you past some of the buildings associated with The Jury, a painting by John Morgan.
Being a good geographer is all about observation - looking at the environment and being able to interpret what you can see.

In pairs, you are going to take a short walk and observe the environment around you. In the box below draw a mental map of your route. As you walk, take photographs and make notes about anything which might tell you about the local history of your area.

A mental map of the local area showing aspects of local history
In the lesson about local people, you found out about famous people from local history who have been commemorated with a blue plaque.

However, you discovered that there are actually no blue plaques in Aylesbury! There are some black plaques though, particularly around St. Mary’s church. Have a look at the photos below. Can you spot where they were taken? What do they say?

Images © RGS-IBG/Rebecca Kitchen

Image by Flickr user [flem007.uk](http://flem007.uk) and licensed for reuse under Creative Commons Licence.
Religious buildings can often tell us a large amount about the history of a place. Here, you are going to investigate St. Mary’s church in Aylesbury which dates back to the 13th century.

With your mobile phone, or a digital camera, take some photos of different parts of St. Mary’s church which you may be able to date. For example, can you find and take a photo of the oldest gravestone you can find? Are there any dates which are carved into the stone of the building? Stick your photos in the space below.