

Phase One – Two days of observation

Monday, October 17, 2005

Morning Session

The purpose of these two days in school were to meet everyone concerned with the project, familiarize myself with the layout and procedures of the school, and lay the framework for the next stage of the project. Accordingly, most of the morning was taken up with meetings with the head-teacher where we finalized and signed the contract, organized for the delivery of some of the materials, required for the workshops, from the school catalogue, and decided which area of the school grounds should be used for the project.



I then started to survey the garden with assistance from two Y5 pupils, Chloe and Charlie, to whom I taught the basics of triangulation and surveying. Both pupils were full of ideas about the garden, however they also had concerns about vandalism and money.

Afternoon Session

I accompanied Marie, the teacher in charge of the project, to Y5 where she talked about the forthcoming trip to YSP.

I asked the pupils to consider the scale and materials of the sculptures they will see, and think about how these ideas could be used in their garden.

I explained to Marie that I wanted to look at the Access Trail in YSP, as the different path surfaces and smaller area could be useful in relation to the project.

I introduced myself to Y5, and showed them examples of my work – sculptures and garden designs. The pupils were very interested, and excited, by these – the work they had done previously with the Local Authority Teacher Adviser meant that they already had ideas for the garden, and had some knowledge about plans and maps.

The pupils were very keen to use recycled materials in the garden. Therefore, we compiled a list of possible materials. The pupils agreed to collect some materials e.g. tin cans and plastic bottles, in preparation for the second part of the project.

I then explained to the pupils the schedule for the second part of the residency.

We all went outside to look at the designated area of the garden which we would be designing. We held a group discussion about the site – what we felt about it, our hopes for what it might look like etc.

The main consensus was that there was:

- nowhere to sit
- no quiet areas
- no planting/flowers
- no play equipment – very bleak.

The pupils were full of enthusiasm and ideas – I told them to write them down/draw in sketchbooks, ready for next time.

After School Session

I completed the survey of the garden on my own and pinpointed the location of all the trees, and estimated the location of mounds. I required the height of the mounds, but was unable to do this on my own. I met one of the schools neighbour's, who had concerns about a cluster of trees on the boundary between the school and his garden.