

Designing arrow heads ...

What is a Deer Park?
 Deer parks were areas of land, usually enclosed, set aside and equipped for the management and hunting of deer and other animals. They were generally located in open countryside on marginal land or adjacent to a manor house, castle or palace. They varied in size between 3 and 1600ha, comprising of a combination of woodland and grassland providing a mixture of cover and grazing for deer.

Dartington's Deer Park project is well underway and much of the wall has been repaired. The Deer Park wall is an 18th century Grade II listed stone wall, built along a boundary of an ancient medieval deer park at Dartington which, by the middle of the 18th century, replaced the wooden and earth structures. As well as repairing the wall, the project is helping young people of all ages explore history, craft and technology at Dartington.



... with the Dartington Deer Park



The idea for the arrow head project came from David Irish and students at KEVICC who wanted to explore the varied designs of an interesting and crucial part of medieval history. Bows and arrows have been used for more than 10,000 years to help our ancestors survive and they were almost certainly used in the Deer Park for hunting deer. They are particularly interesting as a Design and Technology project as they are simple in their use of materials but require an accurate application of knowledge and skills. If students don't make their arrows carefully they may break on impact or not fly straight!

The arrow head project will help students to develop their Design and Technology skills, whilst also finding out about the deer park and the repaired 18th century wall. There will be a special event on 18th July for students to shoot their arrows with Totnes Archery Club.

Students will also meet expert archers and people who specialise in medieval bows and arrows. Throughout the project Ben Fielding, a local historian and archery expert, will be supporting the students.

Students will explore and use a mixture of old and new technologies for this project, starting by designing moulds with the College's high-tech computer and 3D print facilities, and then casting the arrow heads in metal.

Lizzie Mee, Learning and Participation Officer for the Deer Park, says of the project: It's been very interesting to meet Ben and explore his collection. I particularly like the whistling arrows and also the one that bounces on the water! The students can choose all sorts of different designs, and I'm very excited to see what they come up with. It's a great project for developing skills and, hopefully, the students will get lots out of their experiences.