Shaping Places

The techniques used for surveying school grounds can also be applied to projects beyond the school site, for example in planning safe routes to school. As part of the Shaping Places Project, co-ordinated by the Kent Architecture Centre, Y6-Y9 pupils from two Havant schools, Bidbury Junior School and Warblington School, worked with a variety of design professionals: Robyn Butcher, a Landscape Architect working for a private practice in Petersfield; The Terra Firma Consultancy; Gary Cassey, a film maker, and director of Eastleigh based Cass Productions; and Jane Kilford, a local artist.

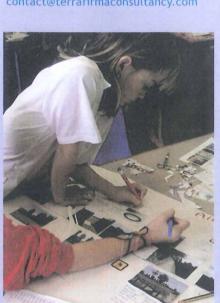
Havant Town Centre came under close scrutiny from the secondary school pupils, who did a site analysis of danger 'hotspots' and produced plans to illustrate solutions. To capture the interest and imagination of all pupils, one of the aims of the project was to produce a short film. Secondary school pupils were involved in filming, which took place both inside the classroom, and out and about in Havant.

Junior school pupils were involved in the creation of a 'Space line': a 10m long illustration of the journey

between their school and the Leisure Centre. Annotated 'before' images of the route and problems, along with 'after' solution sketches formed the main body of the work, with pupils working together in groups of six.

The scheme was jointly funded by SEEDA, the Arts Council and CABE and was evaluated and disseminated through seminars aimed at education and built environment professionals. For further information contact The Terra Firma Consultancy on 01730 262040, or email

contact@terrafirmaconsultancy.com







Can Your School Meet The Great Vegetable Challenge... ... just like Wallace & Gromit?

The Great Vegetable Challenge competition is a collaboration between the DfES Growing Schools programme and Wallace and Gromit creators Aardman Animations Ltd, to coincide with the launch of the fantastic new full length feature film Wallace and Gromit - Curse of the Were-Rabbit.

The competition is open to all foundation settings and primary schools in England and aims to discover the best vegetable plots/growing areas in schools throughout the country. To ensure that schools that are already experienced growers do not have an advantage the competition is split into two sections.

Section one is for schools that already have an established growing area in their school grounds but would like to expand and improve it. Section two is for schools that are new to the concept of growing their own food in school but would like to take up the challenge.

Two prizes of £2,500 for school grounds development will be awarded to the winning school from each section. The winning schools will also be visited by the Wallace and Gromit Anti Pesto van for a fun Wallace and Gromit surprise as well as advice from a Growing Schools advisor. Four runners up (two from each section) will receive £500 for school grounds

development plus a gardening pack worth £500.

The closing date for entries is 16 December 2005. All participating schools must register on the Growing Schools website:

www.teachernet.gov.uk /growingschools

where teachers can download copies of the entry forms and competition terms and conditions. All registered schools will receive a supporting teachers resource pack and fantastic wall planner to guide them through the growing year.