

## 'jack sorrell research foundation' a public artwork for Efford

'jack sorrell research foundation' is a temporary public artwork for the Efford Community Building Masterplan.

'jack sorrell research foundation' aims to retell Efford through research, actions and documentation about Jack Sorrell, the Royal Marine Public House and the community of Efford.

'jack sorrell research foundation' is a reflective ally for Efford.



'what do you know about jack sorrell?' action research, October 2006



'the legend of jack sorrell' a book, November 2006



'jack says' four drawings, December 2006



'jack look-a-like's?' one suit, January 2007 Plymouth Arts Centre



'jack sorrell research foundation' the web pages, January 2007

## Artist's report 'jack sorrell research foundation' a public artwork for Efford

The 'jack sorrell research foundation' was the unanticipated result of a commission by Shillam + Smith and HECF for Efford Community Buildings Masterplan project.

The commission was confirmed at the end of August 2006 following a cross-community committee selection process and will be completed with an exhibit in SLOW at Plymouth Arts Centre in January 2007.

My initial proposal anticipated an installation of text statements across the neighborhood revealing feelings and memories about the place and stated that my work would 'reveal the importance of the individual and collective experience of the place itself, and encourage both community interaction and a sense of identity'. Although the final artwork, and to a certain extent the process, shifted from the initial proposal as a consequence of research and engagement in Efford, I believe these aims have been achieved.

Process The artwork developed through participatory activities in Efford, research in Efford and Plymouth, and work in my London studio. The artwork is a series of actions and publications and will continue through the web pages and an on-going communication with people in Efford and Plymouth.

### Activities in Efford

- 08.09.06 artists' introductory walk: Efford neighborhood
- 29.09.06 walking & talking: Efford neighborhood
- 30.09.06 'what makes you smile in Efford?' Torrridge Way
- 05.10.06 'what do you know about jack sorrell?' Torrridge Way
- 06.10.06 'what do you know about jack sorrell' Torrridge Way

13.10.06 'jack sorrell look-alike's' Torrridge Way

### Research in Efford and Plymouth

- 29.09.06 Co-operative Monumental Services
- 30.09.06 Local and Naval Studies Library, Plymouth Central Library
- 14.10.06 Local and Naval Studies Library, Plymouth Central Library
- 25.10.06 Plymouth Art Centre: Art School
- 26.10.06 Efford Public Library
- 26.10.06 St Andrew's Church

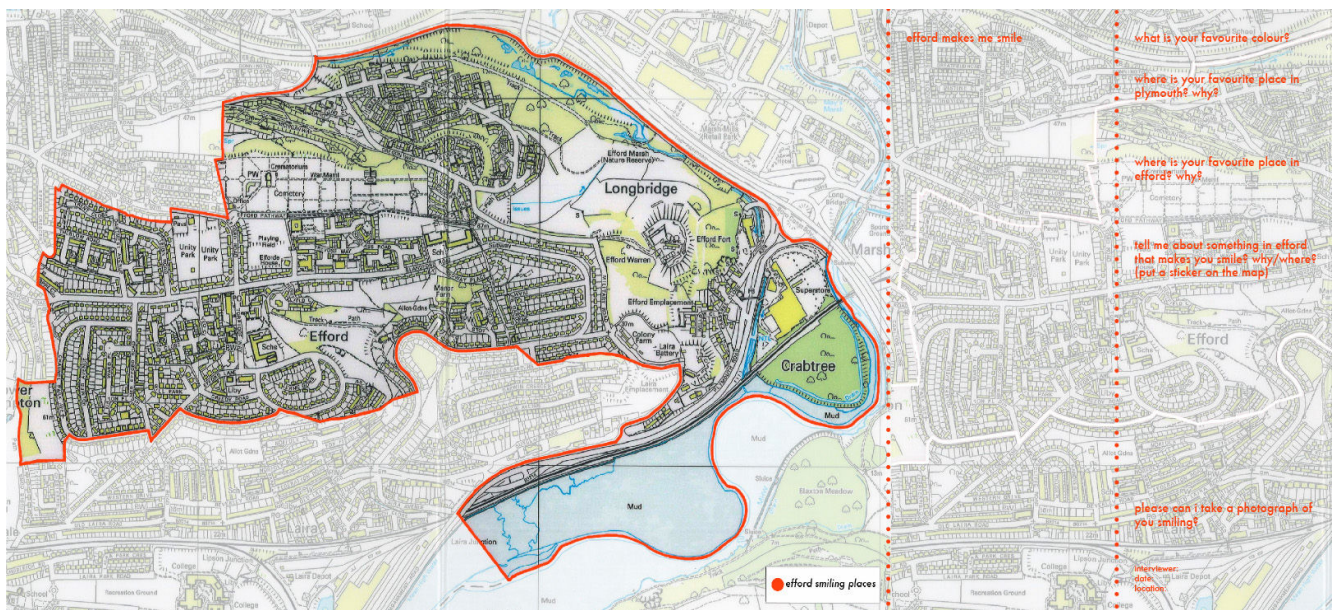
Studio Work September devising questionnaires, stickers, flyers October development of approach, jack sorrell legend, jack sorrell suit November designing book December making statement drawings January evaluation and exhibit for SLOW exhibition, Plymouth Arts Centre

Development The activities provided an opportunity for young people in Efford to find out what local people thought about the place. The evidence gathered at each activity informed the direction of the next activity and my associated research. These activities unearthed the legend of Jack Sorrell.

The development of the project was interrupted when the main adult collaborator was taken ill. After a period of reflection and further research I decided that the evidence collected by the young people was still informative and important to the masterplan project, and that it could be revealed by the formation of the 'jack sorrell research foundation'.

I had initially proposed a series of timber signs/flats across the neighborhood and possibly elsewhere in Plymouth. I decided after the first session that it was unfeasible to place such a temporary work in the public realm in Efford. There was already so much damaged 'public property' and the young people assured me that anything timber placed in the public realm would be burnt. I also realised that it was unrealistic to expect adequate commitment from local young people in such a short time who, despite their enthusiasm for the work, were not accustomed to committing regular time to a project or activities. I therefore chose print outputs, initially planning delivery through the doors of Efford homes, but then deciding that distribution would be via the exhibition at Plymouth Arts Centre and web pages.

### What makes people smile in Efford?



On a Saturday morning, between 11am and 3pm, a group of young people stopped passersby in Torrridge Way to ask them four questions: 'what is your favorite colour?', 'where is your favourite place in Plymouth?', 'where is your favourite place in Efford?', 'what makes you smile in Efford?'. Upon completing the questionnaire interviewees were pictured smiling and then given a sticker saying 'Efford makes me smile'.