For those teaching the First World War, IWM’s ‘Mapping the Centenary’ portal represents an innovative, contemporary and classroom-friendly resource. Incorporating elements of geography and history, it offers a digitally engaging way to enrich curriculum-based learning around themes and events linked to the conflict.

The strength of this interactive online portal lies in its accessibility, by enabling users to explore and identify connections with their locality. Ensuring that subject matter has a sense of immediacy and tangibility helps learners not only develop their critical inquiry skills, but also provides a meaningful grounding from which to consider broader conceptual ideas – not least commemoration, how we interact with our national past and the purpose of history.

The following guide gives instructions for how teachers can make use of the portal within the space of the (remote) classroom, with suggestions on how to maximise its functionality in order to engage and boost pupil learning.
This interactive map feature visually evidences how the First World War centenary was marked between 2014 and 2019 across the UK, alongside a few international listings.

Each listing has been contributed by an organisation, and is pinned to the corresponding location where that activity took place.

Listings cover a range of commemorative responses, ranging from the national – such as the cultural arts programme of ‘1418 NOW’ and the Council for British Archaeology’s ‘Home Front Legacy’ initiative – to regional and city-based initiatives, through to the work of small-scale local and village history groups.

The number of pins will continue to grow, as we continually add newly received listings.

**How can I use the map to discover projects in my local area?**

The layout of the map presents users with an overview perspective up front (Figure 1). This pre-empts the user either clicking on a single pin or zooming to focus upon a particular geographical region.

Users can ascertain which projects took place in certain areas by zooming in or clicking on the coloured circles (which represent clusters of project pins).

As shown in Figure 2, selecting an individual pin opens a mini-overview of a particular commemorative activity or project.

Subsequently pressing the ‘View Project Details’ tab will take the user through to a dedicated landing page. This contains a Project Description overview, information about where related events took place, alongside other links affiliated with that project (Figure 3).
How is the map functional for teachers?

The map exists as a great stand-alone resource for exploring the ways in which the First World War centenary was commemorated. Overviewed information housed within individual listings gives good insight into different types of remembrance activities that occurred over the 2014-18 period.

Whilst true for all who use it, the functionality of the map becomes more useful when the portal is viewed as a gateway, through which to access additional content. Most individual listings signpost to dedicated project websites or a project evaluation report. These often showcase a wealth of digitised content, in addition to displaying more information about specific initiatives. Take, for example, the online biographies and life stories of one hundred and twenty local individuals researched by the Banstead History Research Group in Surrey, which a user can access through the ‘Banstead Remembers’ listing.

For the digitally savvy generation, the functional layout of the map sets it up for natural curiosity as a way of encouraging user interaction. Teachers can feel reassured knowing that the displayed content on display has emerged from activities within the last six years, making it relevant and largely untapped. Using this wide-ranging material as a basis for teaching history can help deepen not only understanding of the First World War, but can moreover shed light upon important contemporary concerns – namely remembrance, national identity and Britain’s colonial past.
When exploring the map or encouraging others to do so, what should I bear in mind?

- Firstly that individual project remits will be dominant within certain areas, e.g. naval history projects being situated at coastal locations.
- Importantly, the populated map reflects only projects and activities submitted by organisations or individuals, so is not uniform. There will be inevitable gaps in geographical coverage, alongside variation in terms of the level of information presented on each listing. Should a project listing not be situated within your local area, the map still houses plenty of content to facilitate thematic-based exploration.
- You can discover more information about some of our Case Study Projects via the IWM Partnerships Blog.
- Please note that IWM is not responsible for the content hosted on external websites.

Project Search Page (Activity Two)

To assist users determine what and how many activities took place within their local area, a dedicated ‘Project Search Page’ has also been designed. This feature contains over 8,000 entries detailing events and outputs that took place across the UK during the centenary period.

Presented data consists of all initiatives that were supported by the National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF, formerly Heritage Lottery Fund), alongside events affiliated with the IWM-led First World War Centenary Partnership (FWWCP).

How should I use the Project Search Page?

Users can apply three specific filters to tailor their search results - ‘Region’, ‘Subject/Theme’ and ‘Output/Event Type’ (please note that selecting the ‘Show More Filters’ tab will provide access to ‘Subject/Theme’). This enables projects to be identified or cross-referenced according to these categorisations.

The Guidance List below offers a framework for encouraging browsing searches, with the freedom to explore based on theme or geographical location. Especially useful for teachers, the ‘Subject/Theme’ tag provides the tools for quickly identifying projects that correlate with key First World War themes, such as conscientious objectors and pacifism. Teachers can then set tasks that best meet pupil requirements – something along the lines of ‘Find the nearest project listing to our school’, ‘Compare an international project listing and a local project listing’, ‘Find a project about the Home Front’ etc.

Why do some listings only contain limited information or don’t have links to websites?

Due to GDPR regulations, the sole information made available for NLHF and FWWCP listings was the ‘Project Title’, the organisation that ran the project, and the project’s region within the UK. Listings that feature on the ‘Centenary Projects Map’ contain links to external project websites.

You can still use these titles to search for NLHF and FWWCP projects or events outside of the portal, because affiliated content may exist externally (although do be aware that some website domain names will have lapsed). Another recommended port of call is the UK Web Archive run by the British Library, which preserves non-interactive access to a large number of websites.
Selection of Linked Project Listings categorised by theme

Online Databases & Listings with Digitised Project Resources
- ‘Wigan and Leigh Archives Online’, Greater Manchester.
- ‘Flintshire War Memorials’.
- ‘Visualising the Iolaire’, Western Isles.
- ‘Buckinghamshire Great War Virtual Trail’.
- ‘Radcliffe on Trent World War One’, Nottinghamshire.
- ‘North East at War’.
- ‘Shipley in World War One’, Yorkshire.
- ‘U-Boat Project 1914-18: Commemorating the War at Sea’, Wales.
- ‘Battle of Jutland Crews List’.
- ‘Staffordshire’s Great War Local Military and Appeal Tribunals’.

Art & Creative Responses
- ‘Tommy’s Footprints’, Bedfordshire.
- ‘Light Fantastic’, Devon.
- ‘Within this House’, Leeds.
- ‘Take Thick with the Light – Stitching the Stopher Story’, Suffolk.

British Empire and Hidden Histories
- ‘From Great War to Race Riots’, Liverpool.
- ‘Shalom Sussex – The Jewish Community in World War One’.
- ‘Diverse Narratives – Cheshire in World War One’.
- ‘The Belgian Refugees in Rhyl’, Denbighshire.
- ‘Chattri Memorial Service’, West Sussex.

Women in War & Home Front
- ‘No Petticoats Here’, Wiltshire.
- ‘Women in Wales in World War One’.
- ‘Sanctuary from the Trenches’, Greater Manchester.
- ‘We Are Poppy’, West Sussex.
- ‘What Did It Do For Her?’, Wiltshire.
- ‘Kitchen Goes to War’, Staffordshire.
Regional & City-based Commemorative Initiatives

- 'Durham at War'.
- 'Somerset Remembers'.
- 'Herefordshire in the Great War: Telling the Story 1914-18'.
- 'Macclesfield Reflects'.
- 'Surrey in the Great War: A County Remembers'.
- 'Rutland Remembers'.
- 'Great War Dundee 2014-2020'.
- 'East Sussex World War One'.
- 'Sheffield’s Great War'.
- 'Worcestershire World War 100'.
- 'Carlisle in the Great War, 1914-18: Munitions, Mayhem and Mobilisation'.
- 'Bristol 2014: The City and Conflict from the First World War to the Present Day'.

Local Projects

- 'Otterford Remembered', Somerset.
- 'Trumpington and World War One', Cambridgeshire.
- 'Sidcup’s Home Front in the Great War', London.
- 'Lathom Park Remount Depot Memorial', Lancashire.
- 'The Story of Areley Kings and World War One', Gloucestershire.
- 'To Commemorate the Fallen – Bramley War Memorial', Yorkshire.
- 'At the Going Down of the Sun - Hathersage', Derbyshire.
- '2018 First World War Commemorations in Croxley Green', Hertfordshire.
- 'World War One – Averham, Kelham & Staythorpe Remembrance', Nottinghamshire.
- 'Great War 1914-18 Commemorative Events Committee Saltash', Cornwall.
- 'Langham on the Home Front', Rutland.
- 'Corsham Commemorates', Wiltshire.
- 'Bottesford Parish First World War Centenary Project: People, Community and Memory', Leicestershire.
- 'Lustleigh and the First World War', Devon.
- 'St Annes on Sea Parish Church Memorial Grave Trail', Lancashire.

National Initiatives

- 'Away from the Western Front'.
- 'Lest We Forget'.
- 'Home Front Legacy'.
- 'Forgotten Wrecks of the First World War'.
- 'Gallipoli Centenary Education Project'.
First World War Public Engagement Centres and University-led Projects

- ‘Gateways to the First World War’, University of Kent.
- ‘Centre for Hidden Histories’, University of Nottingham.
- ‘Aberystwyth at War’, University of Aberystwyth.
- ‘Battlebags and Blimps’, Queen’s University Belfast & Carrickfergus Museum.
- ‘Lost Voices: Spiritualist Communities on the Home Front 1914-19’, University of Portsmouth.

Additional External Teaching Resources

- ‘Remember the World as well as the War’ 2014 British Council Report.
- The British Library’s World War One Teaching Resources.
- ‘The Great War’ website ‘Teaching Resources’.
- BBC ‘World War One at Home’ series.
- The ‘Never Such Innocence’ initiative aimed at young people.